Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

75¢

Costa Atlantica docks at Saipan port

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A 960-foot cruise ship with a capacity for 2,680 passengers arrived at the Port of Saipan yesterday morning.

Costa Atlantica, which was built in Helsinki, Finland and is operated by Costa Cruises in Genoa, Italy, stopped by Saipan during its 46-day South Pacific cruise. *Costa Atlantica* took up all the space at Baker Dock from 7am to 4pm yesterday.

The *Costa Atlantica* is one of 18 Spirit class cruise ships built in Hel-

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The *Costa Atlantica*, a Spirit-class cruise ship, docked at the Baker Dock on Saipan yesterday. The almost-960-foot long cruise ship dropped anchor yesterday at 7am to 4pm as part of its 46-day long itinerary.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Senate passes pay hike bill

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Senate voted 8-0 to pass a bill increasing the salaries of all elected CNMI officials—governor, lieutenant governor, mayors, and legislators—in yesterday's session that dragged on until late 8pm.

House Bill 19-3 HS1 HD1, introduced by House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan), now goes to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for signing.

HB 19-3 would also enact a new base salary schedule and increase the salary ceiling for classified civil ser-

See SENATE on Page 4

Bill transforms role of CHCC board

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Despite being opposed by a platoon of Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. officials and staff, the Senate unanimously passed yesterday a bill that re-establishes a politically appointed board of trustees to govern and manage the functions of the corporation.

After extensive discussions that lasted near 8pm last night, the CNMI Senate passed HB 19-185, HD1. The bill now goes to Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres for his signature.

Numerous corporation officials and staff, who were present to give

See BILL on Page 4

Photo contest garners four 1st place winners

The contestants in Imperial Pacific International's Cultural Heritage Month Photography Contest pose with parents and judges during an awarding ceremony held at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan on Dec. 5.

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

By MICHAEL T SANTOS
michael.santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A photography contest hosted by casino operator Imperial Pacific International, Ltd. has named four first place winners in as many divisions during an awarding ceremony at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan Monday afternoon.

The contest, called Cultural Heritage Month Photography Contest, named Logan Atalig as the first place winner in the Kindergarten/Headstart division. The other first place winners were Mary Salcedo for the elementary division, Hannah Salcedo for the middle school di-

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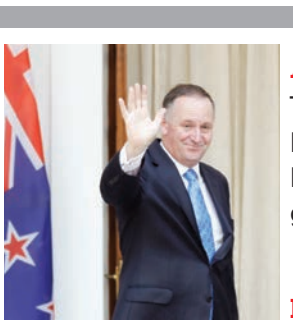

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Local

Villagomez is minority leader

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The five-member minority bloc has agreed to make Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) the minority leader of the 20th Legislature. The independent lawmaker is the most senior of this bloc, this being his fourth term representing Precinct 3.

Rep. Vinson F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said they met and discussed the minority leader post with Villagomez as the top choice. "He has agreed to take the job and he is capable of the position. It is all a matter of us organizing things and [Villagomez] warming up to his new position."

"And with us in the minority in the 20th Legislature, we have a list of issues and positions that we would take. It would depend on the plans of [Villagomez] if we're going to push for it again."

Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune* Monday that, like the NMI Republican Party, they would just make his post official on the first session on Jan. 9 next year. The Republican super majority had also agreed to stick with Rep. Rafael S. Demapan as the House speaker.

Villagomez

Reps. Blas Jonathan T. Attao, Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Edwin K. Propst, and Vinson E. Sablan are the other members of the minority.

Villagomez said their group would continue to work with the GOP leadership and support bills that would benefit the people of the Commonwealth. "Even though we're the minority, it doesn't mean that we're just going to sit at the sidelines."

"We may disagree on some issues but we never really looked at it as us against them. They are the leadership but we will continue to work with them to get things done. We know at the end of the day it is the leadership's call."

He said the minority would remain vigilant and do their part in deliberating or introducing bills and making amendments. "We are also a part of the process of working on bills in the committee and bringing up other issues with the leadership."

Villagomez said that, although he is the most senior member of the minority, he also believes the other four have qualities for the post.

"That is not taking away from the other members because I believe that they are also capable of being the minority leader. I will still rely on their input and we're going to work as a team."

He said their group, under the leadership of minority leader Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) in the 19th Legislature, had come up with a list of 12 key challenges that the CNMI is facing.

"We came up with these points and tried to introduce bills that would address these issues. It is like a platform or guidelines for us that we are aiming to try our best to hit these targets. We're going to revisit the 12 points and see what still needs to be taken cared off or what needs to be added to the list."

The challenges on the list are the lack of transparency and accountability in government; inadequate government capacity; existing statutes not being implemented; huge accumulated budget deficit; large outstanding financial obligations (approximately $510 million), narrow economic base; not enough local businesses; insufficient employment local skills; government employment not based on merit; inadequate quality and delivery of education, health care, environmental, and utility; loss of local culture and traditions at an accelerating pace; and threat on food and energy security.

OAG moves to reconsider Naraja's order in traffic case against Zarones

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has filed an emergency motion requesting Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja to reconsider his earlier order for the OAG to appoint a special prosecutor to handle the traffic case of Chief Solicitor James M. Zarones.

Assistant attorney general J. Robert Glass Jr. said that neither the Commonwealth nor Zarones moved to recuse the OAG in this case.

Glass said during arraignment of Zarones last Nov.3, it was brought up that the OAG might be conflicted out of the proceeding due to Zarones working for the OAG.

Glass said since neither party moved for recusal, Naraja's order should be characterized as *sua sponte*—which refers to judge's actions taken without a prior motion for request from the parties.

Citing a CNMI Supreme Court ruling, Glass said the high court held that under limited circumstances, the trial court can disqualify the OAG and appoint a special prosecutor.

Glass said there is a question as to whether it is a violation of the due process clause to disqualify the OAG without notice and a hearing.

Zarones is accused of violating 9CMC Section 5352 (failure to yield).

At the arraignment last Nov. 3, a conversation ensued about a possible conflict in the OAG prosecuting its employee. Naraja then ordered the OAG to appoint a special prosecutor by Nov. 10, 2016.

The court filed a minute order on Nov. 9, indicating that the government moved to recuse the OAG from prosecuting the matter because Zarones is an employee.

But Glass said the government made no such motion. Glass asked the court to correct its order to reflect that the ruling was *sua sponte*.

See OAG on Page 4

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MHS selected to join research project

Marianas High School's Project TEAMS participants, families, faculty, Education Commissioner Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero, and Board of Education member Janice A. Tenorio attend Parent Night on Dec. 5, 2016, at the Kanoa Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas High School, the home of the Mighty Dolphin, was one of 24 schools throughout the United States that has been selected to participate in Project TEAMS, a five-year research project that seeks to promote learning in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program and supported by the Center for Disability Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, TEAMS stands for Twice Exceptional students Achieving and Matriculating in STEM.

The purpose of the research is to identify exceptional students who have disabilities but also have potential in science and facilitate them to achieve better in science and enter into a college STEM program through evidence-based approaches.

The program is in its second year at Marianas High School.

Project TEAMS at MHS is led by principal Cherlyn Cabrera, classroom teachers Cynthia Ferrari and Rosemarie Arriola, and MHS counselor James Dela Cruz,. Through the program, MHS seeks to provide opportunities for its student with disabilities to demonstrate higher levels of science achievement and to enter a secondary program with a focus on either science technology, engineering, or mathematics.

In related news, MHS successfully hosted its second Parent Night on Dec. 5, 2016, at the Kanoa Resort to showcase student achievements and gain parent support for this year's TEAMS participant. Project TEAMS highlights potential science students with disabilities and provides support to actualize their potential by addressing their academic needs. Students improve their 21st century skill in computer digital media literacy, critical thinking, interpreting and synthesizing, and overall creativity and personal expression.

Of the three seniors that participated last year, all three at currently pursuing higher degrees in college. Last year's junior participants served as mentors to this year's participants. For more information on the program, see the MHS website, marianshighschool.com, or contact the school at 237-3206 Ext. 3206. ***(MHS)***

CUC repairs As Terlaje waterline

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has resolved the damaged waterline in As Terlaje in a matter of days.

CUC acting executive director Gary Camacho said they are close to completing the project.

"The As Terlaje project is basically completed. Traffic seems to be running smoothly down there now but we still have additional work to be done and we'll get to that as soon as possible," he said. "With all the important tasks completed already, things just seem like our work is finished."

William Gilmore, deputy executive director for CUC, said, "It took five days to repair the waterline. We're out of traffic now and things are fine. Now we're just waiting to go back and fix some minor issues."

According to Camacho, the waterline in As Terlaje ruptured. However, further investigation is needed to find the cause of the rupture.

A resident in the area, Aaron Falig, said, "I heard about that road a couple days ago. I just thought to myself that it was a hassle going through it since it is a main road plus it's where the hill is. So yeah, it's a good thing they fixed it as soon as possible because I go through it everyday."

For more information, contact the CUC customer call center at 664-4282 or monitor their Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(Michael T. Santos)***

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In photo from left to right: Store owner of Friendly Market, winner of $5,000 (Mrs. Jennifer Somol) and NMSA's Lottery Manager (Mrs. Anicia K. Lisua)

Mrs. Somol walked into Friendly Market on Friday, Dec. 2, 2016, to buy some snacks for her kids. She then bought 3 Instant Scratchies tickets to try her luck. Out of the 3 tickets, she won a free game, so she redeemed it for another ticket, but she didn't win anything. She decided not to play anymore because she didn't want to end up broke and her kids might end up not having any gifts for Christmas. As she was about to walk out, she saw the store owner putting brand new pack of Red Hot 7's into the dispenser and she thought to herself, "OK, maybe just one more". So she bought the very first ticket from that new pack and won $5000.00 instantly. She was so happy, she couldn't believe it. On Monday, December 5, 2016 she received her winning from NMSA's lottery manager.

SENATE

From Page 1

vice government employees.

Senate President Fancisco M. Borja, Senate Vice President Arnold I. Palacios, floor leader Steve K. Mesngon, legislative secretary Teresita A. Santos, and Sens. Francisco Q. Cruz, Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and Justo S. Quitugua were present; Sen. Paul A. Manglona was off-island.

The bill is based on a report of the Advisory Commission on Elected Official Compensation, which was created through Public Law 19-51 last July 14. The commission—composed of Hofschneider, Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan), Reps. Joseph Leepan Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan); former Senate president Pete P. Reyes; special assistant for Management and Budget Virginia C. Villagomez, and Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Alex A. Sablan—submitted its report last month.

The commission reviewed the compensation of the governor, lieutenant governor, the mayors, legislators, justices, judges, and other government officials. The commission's recommendation was to increase the salaries of the four positions of all elected officials.

The bill drew mixed reactions from the community. The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and GOP members of the Legislature clearly supported the increase, but there were some that opposed the bill, saying that certain provisions of the CNMI Constitution were violated.

The administration believes that now is the right time to increase the compensation of all elected officials; the last adjustment took place 25 yeas ago.

The commission studied and compared several compensation principles before discussing their final recommendation and voting to adopt their report.

They compared the CNMI salary to the national and regional data they collected from all elected officials in other U.S. jurisdictions. The governor's salary in the territories and commonwealths range from a low of $70,000 (CNMI) to a high of $150,000 (U.S. Virgin Islands).

The commission also used smaller surveys that showed that $62,000 is the average salary of a mayor and used that figure as a reference for the proposed $75,000 increase from $43,200. CNMI legislators also have the lowest salary at $39,300 compared to Guam at $85,000. The national salary average of lawmakers in the U.S. is $69,448.

However, Guam senators—after passing a bill that increased their salaries to $85,000 from $55,000 in 2014—voted 13-2 to roll back their pay raise to the original amount.

Opposition

Activist Glen Hunter opposed the bill, saying the commission's report is not valid since the constitutional requirement was violated. "In this case though, there are numerous constitutional violations. The bill, if it becomes a law, violates numerous sections of the Constitution."

"The advisory commission legally had 90 days from July 14 to transmit the report to the Legislature. They transmitted it on Nov. 10, way past the legal deadline. Just another unconstitutional issue [since] the law that created the commission [states] 30 days from July 13 to form and 60 days to transmit."

Hunter also cited Article II Section 15 of the CNMI Constitution: "A member of the Legislature who has a financial or personal interest in a bill before the Legislature shall disclose that interest and may not debate on or vote on the bill."

He added that members of the commission stated they did not get the change in the CNMI's composite price index since 1991, which was constitutionally required. "The 80 percent increase will cost taxpayers over $1 million a year. The bill does not specify a source of funding."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BILL

From Page 1

their thoughts on the matter, were against the bill's passage.

Dr. John M. Tudela, director of Medical Affairs at CHCC, said the "Dark Ages" of his medical career was when CHCC was still under the central government, when it was just starting its transition into a public corporation.

"I am happy to say that I see a lot of positive changes since my early years here and we are now at a pivotal point to further push healthcare in the CNMI into the 'first class care' we envision and strive for," said Tudela. "This bill, in this form, will only create an additional layer of bureaucracy to overcome."

Tudela said he is concerned the bill will threaten the progress the corporation has made.

"Please don't let the sacrifices of countless individuals be in vain because of a hastily drafted bill that has been politicized. The health care industry is complex and leaving the entire control and management on a group of five random individuals is careless," added Tudela.

CHCC Emergency Department director Martin Rohringer said the authors of HB 19-186 are not well informed when it comes to handling healthcare systems and its needs.

"Although I respect the sincere intention of the proposed act, I believe it will not achieve the goals set out within," he added.

"Despite the expected and anticipated difficulties that were inherent in implementing the original CHCC Act, CHCC is now doing an excellent job and attending to the people it has set out to satisfy. I can say that CHCC has been better run and serves the people better than it has in many years," he added.

CHCC medical director of public health Phuong Luu shared that there was once a serious case of drug-resistant tuberculosis on Saipan, which was treated immediately and was contained because of the quick response of the CHCC.

"Health care is very complex. We are the frontline. …I can tell you we had a possible multidrug-resistant tuberculosis case back in June. In one day, I told the CEO, 'I need to order thousands of dollars in drugs now.' She said, 'All right, I trust you. You know what you're doing,'" said Luu.

"It's not as easy to maintain stock medicine. When I was referencing the thousand-dollar immediate authorization [of medicine], these are not medicines we don't carry. …This [was] the first case in many years of drug-resistant tuberculosis. I had to ask [CHCC CEO Esther Muna] to do this immediately because the patient could have died," said Luu.

The proposed renewal of CHCC

Pedro Deleon Guerrero assisted Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) as a consultant, while the latter authored the bill.

Deleon Guerrero wanted to improve the way CHCC was set up from the CHCC Act that established CHCC.

"I helped in the research and the drafting of this bill. I listened to all the comments and they were making legitimate concerns, but it does not directly focus on the real intent and purpose of the bill," said Deleon Guerrero.

"The bill does not take away their responsibilities and their jobs. It does not do that. It just ensures that the corporation will be governed by the board… that has the authority to manage and control CHCC. It does not necessarily mean that they will be the only one to continue the operation of CHCC," added Deleon Guerrero.

Deleon Guerrero assured that the CEO would still continue to have its authority but would be reporting to the proposed CHCC board.

"The function of the CEO is still there but with the addition of the oversight of the governing board of directors."

Senate questions

Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) assured that the Senate does not want CHCC to revert back to the "Dark Ages."

"We had a board of trustees for CHCC that really did not have medical backgrounds. It was challenged and it showed. It really showed," said Palacios. "We lost compliance [with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid]. We were in a crisis. We had to request the federal government to come and assist us."

Palacios said that in order for the CHCC board to be really efficient, the appointees should be familiar with the healthcare industry.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PHOTO

From Page 1

vision, and Tahj Salas for the high school division.

"I took my picture on the day before it was due. My friend and I missed the sunset and he came late from farming. When he came I was asked if I still wanted to take a photo and I said yes since the lighting was good. So, yeah, I really like chasing sunsets and that's what I wanted to portray in my photo," said high school first place winner Salas.

Mercedes Deleon Guerrero, the program director of Chamorro/Carolinian Cultural Heritage Studies, said, "I would like to encourage all parents to continue supporting your child or children when such an event takes place. This event allows us to remember, honor, and promote our culture and to be proud of who we are. The winning pictures portray our culture, traditions, and beliefs. It is critical that we continue to share, promote, and practice our culture so that it will continue to be passed down to the future generations."

The second place winners, from Kindergarten to high school, were Maria Guerrero, Toviann Masiwemai, Seiji Gonzales, and Karen Agulto. Finishing third, from Kindergarten to high school, were Landon Toves, a tie between Vaniqa Torres and Kianna Palacios, Destiny Cabrera, and Pia Dela Cruz.

Geri Dela Cruz, executive director of Imperial Pacific's Corporate Social Responsibility, said, "I think the community embraced this event very well. The number of entries we got was a very good number considering it's the first time for us to hold such an event. What matters most is the fact that 350 students, CNMI-wide, somehow made the effort to talk to someone about culture."

Judges for the event were Robert Hunter, Michelle Atalig, Tom Tebuteb, Farah Younis, Daisuke Yanai, Lauren Benson, Patricia Kapileo, L.J. Castro, first lady Dian Torres, and Deleon Guerrero.

Tao Xing, chief services officer of Imperial Pacific International, said, "It's was a great event. I would like to thank the team for a great job. I would also like to thank all the supporters, judges, and parents. We are going to host another one next year and hopefully more people come out."

All first place winners went home with $200, second placers with $100, and third place winners with $50. There were over 350 entries submitted that focused on a theme "Celebrating Who We Are."

COSTA

From Page 1

sinki with the Panamax form factor, which enable the ships to pass through the Panama Canal.

For this trip alone, the vessel has 1,900 passengers, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Chris Tenorio.

"This is the first visit from *Costa Atlantica*. It has 1,900 passengers on board, not including the staff. It originally came from somewhere in Asia," said Tenorio.

Saipan Shipping Company operations manager Jose T. Quan thinks that that—with improvements—Saipan is capable of accommodating cruise ships.

"The Port of Saipan has been servicing cruise ships for many years now. There are only a handful of cruise ships that call on Saipan within a year. There are more cruise operators inquiring due to the increase in travelers in general. Costa Cruises is one of those operators interested to make Saipan an ordinary call," said Quan.

Quan thinks that with a proper cruise ship terminal the clearance process for the various government agencies involved in inspecting the cruise ship could lead to a better destination.

"Saipan needs to create a proper cruise ship terminal. …The clearance process requires coordination between six different government organizations that will deem a ship cleared upon arrival. Until this is created, the vessel agents will have to plan for additional resources to accommodate for the deficiencies due to a non-existent cruise ship terminal," said Quan.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion said that MVA is aware of the potential the cruise industry holds for the CNMI.

"This will provide a boost to our economy and we hope those onboard enjoy their short stay here and come back in the future. My team and I have been discussing the possibility of marketing the CNMI to cruise ships in our region but a lot of it will depend on our seaport capabilities and other logistical issues that inevitably arise from this type of industry," said Concepcion.

"We are hopeful this can contribute to our overall economy at a time when hotel occupancy rates are at an all-time high. The Marianas offers a huge potential to cruise ships because we have not just one island but multiple islands that can be visited," he added.

Concepcion wanted to assure that the ports on Saipan are capable of handling the huge cruise ships such as *Costa Atlantica*.

"Before we go out and market the CNMI as a prime destination, we need to ensure the seaport is able to handle them, we need to ensure Customs and Border Protection is able to process thousands of incoming passengers at one time, and more," he said.

OAG

From Page 2

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho Monday set a hearing on the emergency motion for Dec. 15, 2016 at 1:30pm.

Camacho recently ordered Glass to brief the issue as to what legal authority the OAG is relying on to disobey or ignore Naraja's written order.

Camacho said the OAG has not appointed a special prosecutor.

According to court documents, Zarones was driving a blue Toyota Rav 4 along Chalan Pale Arnold in Chalan Laulau when the accident happened in the afternoon last Oct. 5. Police officer J. Mendiola issued the traffic citation for failure to yield to right of way. The citation indicated the word "sideswipe" which means that Zarones' vehicle hit another car. Zarones pleaded not guilty.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-012
ROTA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Rota Water Supply Project, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of the demolition of existing building structure, fence, pipes, valves, including appurtenances, installation of new 6-inch, 8-inch, & 10-inch PVC water line complete with necessary valves and fittings, construction of a new well building, chlorination building, booster pump building, and several reconfigurations of the existing water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed by August 1st 2017.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

The Bid Documents may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one Bid Documents package set. The Bid Documents consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **December 7, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** A Site Visit of the CUC Rota Water facilities will be scheduled by CUC Rota thereafter. Prospective Bidders shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) Original and Five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a **sealed envelope** marked "CUC-IFB-17-012 –Rota Water Supply Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 22, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bid. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 12, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Travis Spaeth, CUC Water-Wastewater Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Joey P. San Nicolas
Mayor

Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan

Te:; (670) 433-1800/2
Fax: (670) 433-1819

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
Provision of Project Management Services for
The Office of the Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan
RFQ17-MOT-043

Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, through the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan, (collectively, "Municipality") are soliciting sealed proposals from Architects and Engineers to provide Project Management Services for the Renovation of the Tinian Gymnasium and other capital improvement projects as needed.

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30.3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70-30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 (Local Preference Act) as amended by Public Law 15-118 shall apply to this locally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor, and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Interested parties may pick up the applicable scope of work (SOW) and submittal requirements at the Tinian Liaison Office located at the **Tinian Guesthouse, Navy Hill Rd, Navy Hill, Saipan**, beginning **Wednesday, December 7, 2016**. A pre-proposal meeting will be held at Henry G. Hofschneider Conference Room, located at the Tinian Mayor's Office in San Jose Village, Tinian, at 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on Thursday, December 15, 2016.

Questions regarding this RFQ may be submitted in writing to Ms. Alexis Hofschneider at alexishofschneider@gmail.com or faxed to 433-1819 no later than **Monday, December 19, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. (ChST).**

Selected Project Managers will be retained as independent contractors under general provision of the Contracting Officer or his/her designee. Project Managers will act as agents of the expenditure authority on projects to ensure that identified objectives are achieved within cost, time and legal requirements while maintaining effective stakeholder communications. Selected Project Managers will be retained of a six (6) month contract with an option to renew for an additional six (6) months at the discretion of the Municipality. Project Managers include Architects, Civil, Mechanical, and Electrical Engineers.

Compensation for Project Management services will be determined based on the number of assigned projects including payments for approved staff and expenses. The Municipality will negotiate with the selected Project Managers to determine the scope of work and responsibilities. Individuals or firms selected as Project Managers would be precluded from providing any other services associated with the assigned project(s).

To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License, be currently licensed to practice engineering in the CNMI, and must hold a Certificate of Authorization, if applicable.

Statements of qualifications may be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330, or the latest version of Standard Forms. Only professionally licensed firms with a valid CNMI business license will be considered. Statement of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualification of Firm and/or Personnel – 40%
2. Experience in Project Management – 30%
3. Work Load – 15%
4. Experience with Tinian Mayor's Office Projects – 15%
5. Fee Estimate on a Per Hourly Rate – 0%

Fee estimates will assist the Municipality with budgeting purposes only. Fee estimates will not be a part of the evaluation criteria.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three (3) ranked firms or with all the firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selected firm will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Qualifications statements must be sealed and marked **"RFQ17-MOT-043", Project Management Services for the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the qualifications statement must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on Tuesday, December 27, 2016**.

Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST), on Tuesday, December 27, 2016, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed qualifications statement must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Tuesday, December 27, 2016** and the proposal documents must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **Tuesday, January 3, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Municipality reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

Joey P. San Nicolas
Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Japanese high school visits Saipan

Happy as they all were with their last visit to Saipan, Ikuei Nishi High School has again brought its students and faculty to the island to interact with a local high school.

The group, which consists of 159 students in total as well as 13 staff, has been here on Saipan since Sunday and they will be here until this Thursday.

Members of the school stayed at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan and visited several popular locations on island such as the American Memorial Park, Banzai Cliff, Suicide Cliff, and Bird Island Lookout. Students also organized a flower offering at the Last Command Post.

Masanori Takahashi, president of Pacific Development Inc., said, "We chose to come again to Saipan because it is such a beautiful island. The students can enjoy the nice scenery as well as educate themselves on the culture provided here."

Among the events that took place in the two days since the students have been on Saipan were the dinner with fellow Japanese class students from Mount Carmel School as well as a trip to Managaha Island that included banana boat riding, parasailing, and a barbecue dinner.

"The visit of students from Ikuei Nishi High School is important since it can help them practice their English and allows them to experience a completely different culture as opposed to what they are used to in Japan," Takahashi said. ***(Michael T. Santos)***

Japanese students from Ikuei Nishi High School enjoy dinner with fellow students from Mt. Carmel School during the group's visit to Saipan on Dec. 5.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students from Ikuei Nishi High School make a flower offering at Last Command Post during their visit to Saipan on Dec. 5.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students from Ikuei Nishi High School pose for a group photo on Managaha during their visit to Saipan on Dec. 6.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Docomo Pacific on hiring binge on Saipan

TAMUNING, Guam—Docomo Pacific announced yesterday a job fair intended to help fill the company's more than 20 new job openings on Saipan.

According to Docomo Pacific public relations coordinator Tatiana Perez, "Our undersea fiber optic cable, Atisa, is going to open doors for services and products that haven't been available before in the Northern Mariana Islands. We want to match this anticipation with the right people—people who are as passionate as we are to take this project to the next level."

Candidates interested in a career with Docomo Pacific are invited to apply with a valid photo ID and resume, and interview from 10am to 7pm, on Dec. 8, 2016, at the Azucena Room, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Open positions include Retail Customer Service Representative lead, Tech Zone, direct sales representative, Call Center CSR lead, account executive, sales manager, sales engineer, sales support, and field technician.

Additional information on Docomo Pacific careers can be found at www.docomopacific.com/cnmi/careers. ***(PR)***

CDA sues Bennett, Lizama over loan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority is suing former Board of Education teacher representative Ambrose Bennett, his tricycle dealership company, and former Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama for allegedly not paying a commercial loan plus accrued interest, penalty charges, legal fees, and costs totaling $39,828.49.

Lizama is a co-defendant as it was the former judge who allegedly executed a fee simple mortgage to secure the amounts Bennett and his Lil & Bro's Trike Dealership & Rentals owe under a promissory note.

CDA, through Jennifer Dockter, asked the Superior Court to rule against Bennett and Lil & Bro's Trike Dealership & Rentals, in the principal of $34,162.33 plus accrued interest of $3,242.08, plus penalty charges of $904.16, plus legal fees and costs of $1,519.92, plus any additional amount of accrued interest and late charges.

Bennett said yesterday he is thankful to CDA for the loan "but it is just unfortunate that the economy was terrible at the time" he opened his company. Bennett said he also had a heart attack and developed cancer.

Bennett said he admits the principal amount but protests the interest.

"I hate that it had to end this way," he said.

As of press time, *Saipan Tribune* was still waiting a reply from Lizama for comments.

CDA asked the court that the mortgaged interest in the real property be sold.

CDA asked the court that Bennett, Lil & Bro's Trike Dealership & Rentals, and Lizama be foreclosed of all equity or other interest they may have in the mortgaged property.

CDA requested the court that all mortgaged chattels be seized and sold by CDA.

Proceeds of any sale will be applied for payment.

CDA also sought court's judgment that it be allowed to execute against Bennett and Lil & Bro's Trike Dealership & Rentals for any deficiency after applying all the proceeds of all sales.

DA extended a direct commercial loan of $61,000 to Bennett and Lil & Bro's Trike Dealership & Rentals on April 1, 2011.

In Bennett's promissory note, he agreed to repay the loan, plus interest at 7 percent per annum. Bennett agreed to repay the loan in monthly installments, beginning Aug. 1, 2011, and continuing until the loan was paid in full on July 1, 2014.

According to Dockter in the complaint, Lizama executed a fee simple mortgage to secure the amounts Bennett and Lil & Bro's Trike Dealership & Rentals owes CDA under the promissory note.

Dockter said Lizama mortgaged to CDA his interest in the real property containing 1,186 square meters of land. This was recorded on May 10, 2011 with the Commonwealth Recorder.

In addition to the real property mortgage, Bennett and his dealership executed a security agreement (chattel mortgage) using some items to secure the amounts it owes CDA under the promissory note.

Dockter said the items include 2001 Mazda MPV passenger wagon; one Trojan-1 300-trike; two Chita 300-1 trike; two Trojan-2 150-C trikes; four Bob Bat-1, 150-9 trikes; four Rocker-3, 150-8 CA trikes; and 15 Puma, 150-7 trikes.

Dockteer said other items are all current and newly acquired furniture, fixtures, equipment, machinery, inventory, merchandise, supplies, new trikes, and general tangibles.

The lawyer said the security agreement (chattel mortgage) was recorded on May 10, 2011 with the Commonwealth Recorder.

Dockter said in addition, and in order to obtain the loan, Bennett and his dealership executed receivables and inventory security agreement using some items to secure the amount it owes CDA under the promissory note.

Dockter said Bennett and the company have failed to make the promised monthly payments and have failed to abide by the terms of the note, loan, mortgages, and security agreements.

Dockter said that Bennett has defaulted on the loan and breached the conditions of the note, loan, mortgages, and security agreements.

Dockter said it's more than 30 days have passed since Bennett, the dealership, and Lizama received the notice of default.

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Intoxicated man who beat up wife gets six-month sentence

A man who, while intoxicated, assaulted his common-law wife in Garapan, was sentenced to six months in prison yesterday.

Herbert Bel, 38, was sentenced to one-year in prison, all suspended except for six months. He was given credit for 186 days of time served. He shall be placed on probation for three years.

During his probation, Bel is prohibited from having any contact with the victim. He is also required to stay away from the Admiral Restaurant and Bar and its manager, who helped the victim.

Bel is prohibited from consuming alcohol during his probation. He is required to complete counseling.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio also ordered Bel to pay a $25 in court assessment fee, $300 in probation fee, and $770 to Admiral Restaurant and Bar.

Bel allegedly chased his wife in Garapan, struck, punched, and kicked her and tried to gouge out her eye on June 22, 2016. He pleaded guilty to assault and battery. The other charges—criminal mischief and disturbing the peace—were dropped.

Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig served as counsel for Bel.

The victim sustained a lump on the back of head, a bruise on the forearm, and pain in her body. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

3 Kings wins $500 instantly!

Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 Mrs. Namauleg's and her husband walked into Happy Market to get some drinks. Her husband then bought just one Go Banana's ticket and handed it to her and told her "Good Luck". She was so happy when she scratched off the ticket in front of the store and found that she just won $500.00 instantly.

Moonlight SHOPPING
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20% discount
on everything in the store

Open: Monday – Sunday: 10am – 9pm • Tel.: 235-9397 (CK); 233-2398 (Garapan)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DIVE RESCUE TECHNICIANS

On Friday, Dec. 2, 2016, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and the Department of Public Safety's joint Dive Rescue Technician fifth cycle completed their training under the S2 Dive Club. There were a total of 13 students: nine from DFEMS and four from DPS. Out of the 13 there were only two females. The fifth cycle is the first cycle that has females that had completed a dive rescue course.

Presentation on archaeological research in Laulau Bay

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is inviting the public to a presentation by visiting archaeologist Dr. Mike Carson that will be held at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater tonight, Dec. 7, from 6pm to 8pm.

Carson will share his recent archaeological research at *Unai Bapot* of Laulau Bay Saipan, where new excavations findings are adding to the growing knowledge base of ancient Chamorro history.

The newest findings are from an excavation done this past October in conjunction with the CNMI Historic Preservation Office. While the data analysis will continue for another few months, Carson will present on the kinds of artifacts and food remains that have been identified, the apparent evidence about the ancient environment, and the initial radiocarbon dating.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Visiting archaeologist Dr. Mike Carson will have a presentation today on his recent archaeological research at *Unai Bapot* of Laulau Bay Saipan, where new excavations findings are adding to the growing knowledge base of ancient Chamorro history.

Carson is a visiting associate professor of Archaeology at the University of Guam and a faculty of the Australian National University.

This presentation is sponsored by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council as a part of its ongoing Community Lecture Series. It is open to the public and free of charge.

For more information about this upcoming event, call council staff at 235-4785. ***(PR)***

Rota sets several sobriety checkpoints

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on the dates and time listed below:

- **Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016:**
  1. First setup: 7pm to 8:15pm, San Francisco Highway by Sinapalo 3 park
  2. Second setup: 9pm to 10:15pm, San Francisco Highway Lotgan area.
- **Friday, Dec. 9, 2016:**
  1. First setup: 7:30pm to 8:45pm, San Francisco Highway Sonton area
  2. Second setup: 9:30pm to 10:45pm, San Francisco Highway Guata area
- **Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016:**
  1. First setup: 7pm to 8:15pm, San Francisco Highway Teteto
  2. Second setup, 9pm to 10:15pm, San Francisco Highway Igua area
  3. Third setup: 11pm to 12am, San Francisco Highway Pinatang
- **Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2016:**
  1. First setup: 7pm to 8:15pm, San Francisco Highway Uyulan by Rota Hotel
  2. Second setup: 9pm to 10:15pm, San Francisco Highway by Sinapalo 3 park
  3. Third setup: 11pm to 12:15am, San Francisco Highway Sonton area
- **Thursday, Dec. 22, 2016:**
  1. First setup: 7pm to 8:15pm, San Francisco Highway Lotgan area
  2. Second setup: 9pm to 10:15pm, San Francisco Highway Tatachog area
  3. Third setup: 11pm to 12:15am, San Francisco Highway Guata area
- **Friday, Dec. 23, 2016:**
  1. First setup: 7pm to 8:15pm, San Francisco Highway Igua area
  2. Second setup: 9pm to 10:15pm, San Francisco Highway Uyulan area
  3. Third setup: 11pm to 12:15am, San Francisco Highway Teteto area
- **Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2016:**
  1. First setup: 7pm to 8:15pm, San Francisco Highway by Pinatang Park
  2. Second setup: 9pm to 10:15pm, San Francisco Highway by Guata beach
  3. Third setup: 11pm to 12:15am, San Francisco Highway by Sinapalo 3
- **Friday, Dec. 30, 2016:**
  1. First setup: 7pm to 8:15pm, San Francisco Highway Igua area
  2. Second setup: 9pm to 10:15pm, San Francisco Highway by Teteto beach
  3. Third setup: 11pm to 12:15am, San Francisco Highway Lotgan area
- **Saturday, Dec. 31, 2016:**
  1. First setup: 7pm to 8:15pm, San Francisco Highway by Sinapalo 3
  2. Second setup: 9pm to 10:15pm San Francisco highway by Guata beach
  3. Third setup: 11pm to 12:15am, San Francisco Highway by Pinatang Park.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes).

This activity is part of the department's effort to deter, detect and apprehend impaired drivers, and to ensure that all passengers are wearing proper restraining devices, seatbelts or car seats.

In addition, traffic and patrol officers will be conducting Highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement. ***(DPS)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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PUBLIC NOTICE

(This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.)

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt Governor Victor B. Hocog, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman, Mr. Ignacio L. Perez, wish to announce that its Consolidated Annual Performance Report (CAPER) for Program Year 2015 is available for review. Comments made by the general public should be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 22, 2016. Written comments must be submitted to the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by contacting Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at 234-9447/7689.

The report will be submitted to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Honolulu Office, by December 31, 2016. The CAPER encompasses the performance assessment of all HUD-funded programs, administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The report is available at the NMHC Central Office in Saipan and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Rota and Tinian during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact the Planning Division for arrangements by calling (670) 234-7689/6866 during regular business hours.

/s/ Ignacio L. Perez
Chairman of the Board

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP17-BECQ-054

SUBMISSION: JANUARY 6. 2017 TIME 10:00 A.M.

"INSTALLATION OF A TELEPHONE SYSTEM FOR OFFICE TELECOMMUNICATION OPERATION FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **DECEMBER 7, 2016** FROM THE BECQ OFFICE OR BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **jessetenorio@becq.gov.mp.** **QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE E-MAILED TO jessetenorio@becq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **DECEMBER 23, 2016.**

THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT AND REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN** ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ
/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN** DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP17-BECQ/DCRM-050

SUBMISSION: JANUARY 6. 2017 TIME 10:00 A.M.

"CUBICLE WORKSTATIONS/PARTITIONS & OFFICE FURNITURE/FIXTURES & MOBILE RACK SYSTEM FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY – DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **DECEMBER 7, 2016** FROM THE BECQ OFFICE OR BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **janicecastro@becq.gov.mp.** QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE E-MAILED TO janicecastro@becq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **DECEMBER 23, 2016.**

THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT AND REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT

/S/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN** ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ
/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN** DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DCCA-045

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 30, 2016 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A CLASS "D" VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **ROBERT H. HUNTER** SECRETARY OF DCCA
/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN** DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DOC-055

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 23, 2016 TIME: 10:00A.M.

"PURCASE OF ONE (1) CARD PRINTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **MARK O. RABAULIMAN** SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN** DIRECTOR OF P&S

CUC's online payment, pay by phone back in operation

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers may now go back to paying their bills online or by phone.

In a notice to CUC customerson Monday, CUC said that its customer online payment and services are back in operation.

CUC customers may access the online payment service by going to the CUC website at www.cucgov.org and clicking on the "Pay Online" box and then follow the instructions to register one's account. CUC customers may also pay by phone by calling the toll free number at 1-855-PAY 2 CUC or 1-855-729-2282.

Payments are also accepted at Bank of Guam, Bank of Hawaii, and Bank of Saipan.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor their Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Join the annual Christmas Bird Count

On Monday, Dec. 19, birders are invited to participate in Saipan's Annual Christmas Bird Count. The CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife has organized local counts for over 25 years. Volunteers for the Saipan Count will meet at 6am at the American Memorial Park to divide into teams for roadside and walking surveys. Bring binoculars if you have them, but it's okay if you don't. For more information, contact Steve Mullin at 664-6011 or smullin.cnmi.dfw@gmail.com, or visit http://www.cnmidfw.com/. ***(PR)***

Air Force training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Dec. 6-8, from 8am to 8pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

CUC closed on Constitution Day

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s offices will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016, in observance of Constitution Day. Regular business hours will resume on Friday, Dec.9, 2016. For emergencies, contact the CUC call center at 664-4282. ***(CUC)***

VA benefits outreach

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration (non-health) will be conducting a Veterans Benefits Outreach on Dec. 9, 2016, from 9am to 3pm at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic, MH II Bldg., Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. This will be a one-on-one outreach. Chris Duenas, legal administrative specialist, will be available to answer questions and take your claims. Points of contact are Ruth Coleman, 322-0035; Chris Duenas, 1-671-648-0090. ***(VA)***

Notice to Tinian candidates, political parties

The staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Tinian today, Dec. 7, 2016, to notarize and accept filings of campaign statement of account forms for the 2016 election candidates and political parties. Filers on Tinian may visit the Department of Commerce from 9am to 4pm. Proper identification with both the photo and signature of the candidate and treasurer must be provided. For any inquiries, contact OPA at 322-6481 or 6482. ***(PR)***

Wage and salary statement workshop

The Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance will be conducting a workshop for the Annual Wage and Salary Statement, Form (W-2CM) for tax year 2016 and other 2016 yearend filing requirements. The workshop will be on Friday, Dec. 16, 2016. The first seminar will be from 8am to 11am and the second will be from 1pm to 4pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. Businesses, employers and all payroll service companies are encouraged to attend. Please confirm your attendance by calling the Division of Revenue and Taxation at 664-1000 and 664-1098 or fax at 664-1015. ***(PR)***

Holiday closures at Visitor Center

The American Memorial Park Visitor Center will be closed on Dec. 25, 2016, Christmas Day, and on Jan. 1, 2017, New Year's Day. Park staff would also like to encourage the public to visit the Visitor Center. With the exception of the holidays closed, the VC is open every day from 9am to 5pm. If you have any questions, contact park ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 or 2020 or email brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. ***(NPS)***

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. (ExxonMobil) is a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation – the world's largest publicly traded international oil and gas company, which holds an industry-leading inventory of resources and is one of the world's largest integrated refiners, marketers of petroleum products, and chemical manufacturers. This is your opportunity to join this dynamic company and become part of the team that thrives in a fast-paced, controls-oriented environment as:

Aviation Refueller

Job Description:
Responsible for assisting the Aviation Depot Supervisor in a safe and proper handling, storage and movement of aviation products at the airport as well as dispensing aviation fuel into aircraft. Ensures that into-plane refueling is carried out in accordance with the ExxonMobil Aviation's operating procedures.

Location:
- Saipan Aviation Depot, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

Job Duties:
- Executes and complies with ExxonMobil's systems controls, policies and guidelines by using aviation manuals and procedures and adheres to government and industry standards.
- Ensures that only clean, dry and on-specification fuel is delivered to aircraft safely and efficiently.
- Stewards facility contractor's performance and execution of required deliverables.
- Performs repairs on facility and equipment as directed by the Aviation Depot Supervisor.
- Advises the supervisor on stock levels of required aviation materials in a timely manner.
- Performs tests and checks on fuels and equipment and ensures a current and accurate record is kept reflecting all results

Qualifications / Skills required:
- Experience in safe petroleum handling, storage and movement or related field
- Minimum educational background - high school diploma or equivalent
- Understanding of aviation and federal regulations as applicable to petroleum handling, storage and distribution
- Ability to work shifts based on a 24-hour work day, work extended hours, weekends, and holidays
- Good interpersonal skills, ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing in English

Preference will be given to candidates with the following skills:
- Experience in aviation operations
- Experience in general repair and maintenance activities
- Previous experience in petroleum handling and storage
- Previous experience in petroleum industry

If you are interested in and/or meet the qualifications for this position, please submit your resume on or before December 14, 2016 to the following:

Attention to:
Maria P. Kemp, Field Operations Manager-CNMI
P.O. Box 500367 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Fax: (670) 236-8190
Email: maria.kemp@exxonmobil.com

ExxonMobil is an Equal Opportunity Employer

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, protected veteran or disability status.

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Terminal Operator - Saipan

Job Description:
Performs day-to-day activities to safely operate a petroleum distribution facility. Maintains SSH&E (Safety, Security, Health, and Environment) standards pursuant to local and federal regulations and ExxonMobil's policies, procedures, and guidelines. Performs operations of marine tanker receiving, bunkering, tank truck loading, pipeline transfer, product quality testing, handling and storage of bulk and packaged petroleum products while delivering premier product quality and customer service.

Location:
- Saipan Terminal, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

Job Duties:
- Executes and complies with ExxonMobil's operational procedures, systems, policies, and guidelines by using terminal manuals and procedures, loss prevention tools, and corporate & industry standards.
- Conducts routine facility inspections. Maintains housekeeping and conducts maintenance and repairs to ensure safe operating conditions.
- Performs safe marine terminal operations, shore-to-ship and ship-to-shore transfers of bulk petroleum products, tank truck loading, pipeline transfers, and product quality testing.
- Adheres to safety and environmental programs. Takes a dynamic and proactive approach to protect the environment and the safety, health, and security of employees, customers, and the public.
- Administratively prepares and submits regulatory and internal reports associated with the handling, storage, and product movement of the petroleum distribution terminal. Performs oil loss monitoring duties.
- Interfaces with third-party contractors, local and federal government agencies, internal and external customers, and ExxonMobil's global network system.
- Conducts simple math calculations and conversions of temperature, weights, and measures.

Qualifications / Skills required:
- Experience in safe petroleum handling, distribution and storage or related field
- Minimum educational background - high school diploma or equivalent
- Familiarity with computer applications in spreadsheet and word processing (i.e., MS Word and Excel)
- Understanding of U.S. federal and local regulations as applicable to petroleum handling, storage, and distribution
- Ability to work shifts based on a 24-hour work day, work extended hours, weekends, and holidays
- Good interpersonal skills, ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing in English

Preference will be given to candidates with the following skills:
- Experience in marine terminal operations
- Previous experience in petroleum handling and storage
- Previous experience in petroleum industry

If you are interested in and/or meet the qualifications for this position, please submit your resume on or before December 14, 2016 to the following:

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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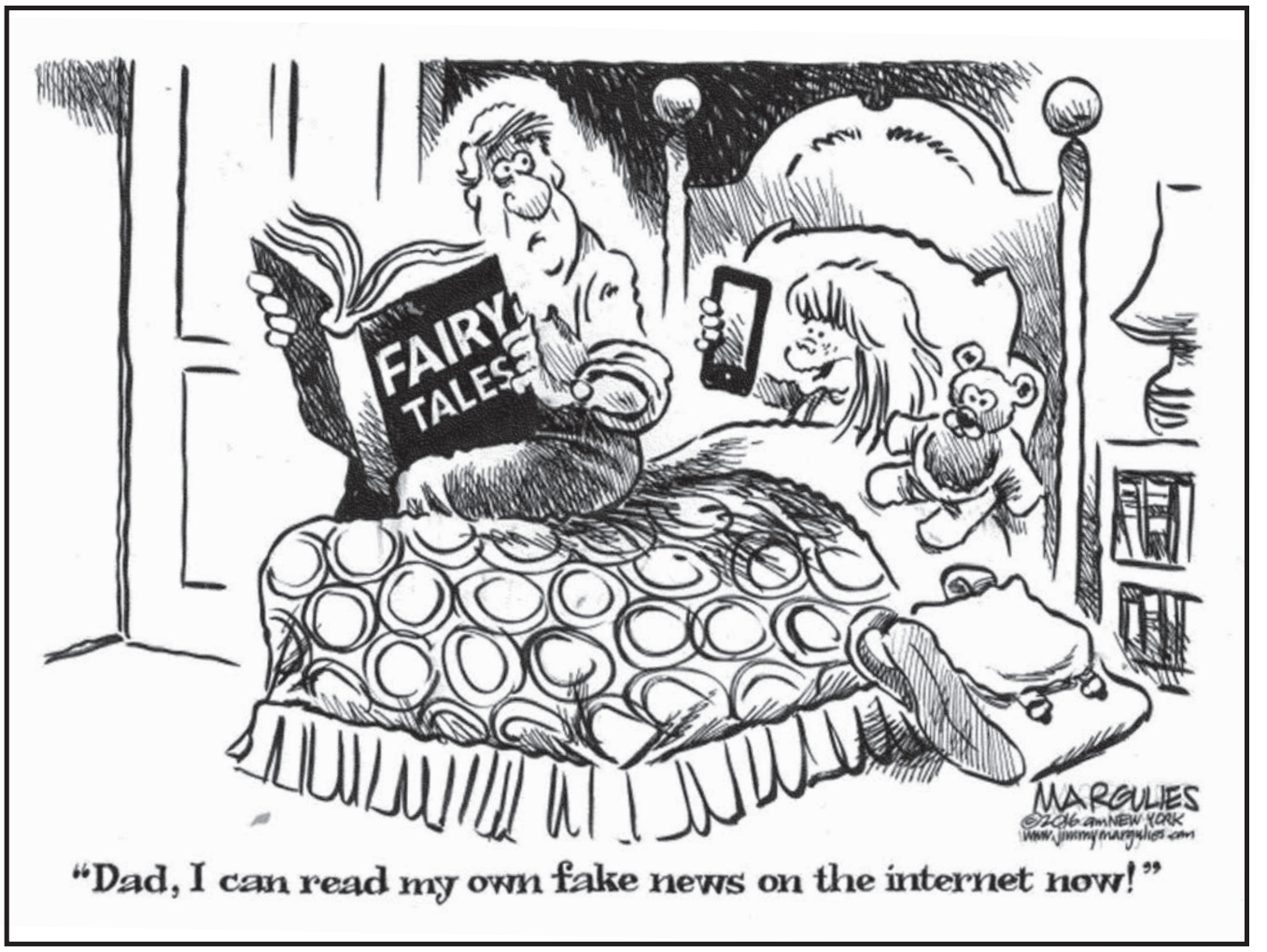


EDITORIAL

Eyes on Putin: Seeking clues in the Russian leader's speech

Russia's President Vladimir Putin annual State of the Nation address, delivered at the Kremlin Thursday, was rather restrained for him. But it did offer some clues to his idea of relations with the new administration in Washington.

Putin has no real political problems at home, his United Russia party having won a constitutional majority in the Duma, the two-house Russian parliament, in elections earlier this year. If he has any problems as Russia's leader, they are economic. Energy amounted to 71 percent of Russia's exports last year and world oil prices have been weak, knocking a big hole in Russia's budget. It is hard to gauge how much damage has been done to Russia by economic sanctions imposed on it as a result of its activities in Ukraine, but they haven't helped. It has also been waging an expensive war in Syria.

The Organization of the Petroleum Export Countries has just announced a 3 percent cut in production to begin Jan. 1 to attempt to push prices up. Russia is not a member of OPEC but has indicated its intention to follow suit in the effort, which could improve its economic situation.

Most interesting to Americans is what Putin said about his international relations posture, given that President-elect Donald Trump is in the midst of putting together his foreign affairs and national security teams. He and Trump talked by phone Nov. 14. Putin in his address stated a desire to mend U.S.-Russian relations, fractured over Ukraine and by a lack of coordination in the two countries' approach to the war in Syria, in spite of regular meetings between Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Secretary Sergey Lavrov. Putin indicated that he saw the principal point of policy convergence as combating terrorism. That means different things to the two countries, but is not a bad starting point.

Another word by Putin about relations with the United States stood out: "equality." Since the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, successor regimes have smarted at any indication that the United States considered that it had won the Cold War, or that Russia's status had sunk substantially on a global basis. In that same column, Russia has also been working on improving its relations with China, to make the same "great power" point and to get under America's skin.

Trump, as a new force in American politics and one who already has direct and indirect ties to Russia (even if it didn't in fact try to cook the U.S. 2016 elections), will be in a strong position to carry out a useful reset in U.S.-Russian relations. That is needed in a number of areas, such as to preserve the climate change and Iran deals, and to keep nuclear warfare in its cage. Putin used his speech to state Russia's interests. He also appears to grasp the virtues of an improved relationship with America. Time and actual developments, including in Syria and Eastern Europe, will tell.

(c)2016 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

What's fair to Donald Trump should be fair to Keith Ellison

By CLARENCE PAGE
Chicago Tribune

Clarence Page is a member of the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board. Readers may send him email at cpage@tribune.com.

Republican president-elect Donald Trump, as everyone knows, launched his campaign with insults to women, Muslims, Mexicans and other minorities—and without apologies to anybody. He won election anyway.

Now we have Rep. Keith Ellison of Minnesota, frontrunner for the chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee, receiving renewed scrutiny of his past statements in support of Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan and other radical figures—which he renounced at least 10 years ago.

Can Ellison, 53, the first Muslim elected to Congress (and, along with Andre Carson, an Indiana Democrat, one of two now serving in Congress), receive what Trump requested throughout his campaign, to be "treated fairly"?

I don't fault the Anti-Defamation League for raising questions about Ellison's bid last week, although I think they would have benefitted from talking to him first. The statement from ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt cited statements about Israel in a 2010 speech by Ellison as "deeply disturbing and disqualifying."

The statement was released the same day as a new CNN report detailed Ellison's past defense of Farrakhan, whose past statements about Jews and Israel enflamed tensions nationwide, beginning with the Rev. Jesse Jackson's 1984 presidential campaign.

Ellison responded to the ADL in an open letter, describing himself as a "strong supporter of the Jewish state, voting for more than $27 billion in aid to Israel."

He described his quotes about Israel in question as "selectively edited and taken out of context" by an unnamed person whom the Southern Poverty Law Center has called an "anti-Muslim extremist."

Nevertheless, he said, he looked forward to working with the ADL more in the future.

The ADL statement dealt a setback to Ellison's bid, in which he has emerged as frontrunner. His wide-ranging endorsements include Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Ellison forcefully renounced his association with the Nation of Islam and its leader Minister Louis Farrakhan in 2006 after it became an issue during his first run for Congress. Local Republican bloggers had published his old law school columns and photos connecting him to the black separatist organization and even speaking favorably of racial separatism and slavery reparations.

But that was a different, far more radical Keith Ellison, he says, than the one who was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 2002.

When his former activism emerged as an issue in his 2006 campaign, his renunciation of those past associations was clear and forceful. "I have long since distanced myself from and rejected the Nation of Islam," he wrote at the time, "due to its propagation of bigoted and anti-Semitic ideas and statements, as well as other issues."

The new quotes unearthed by CNN came from his earlier period. Although Ellison had defended the right of others to speak, CNN did not find anti-Semitic statements that he had made himself. Even so, he said, he regretted his earlier reluctance to properly judge those who did make anti-Semitic and homophobic statements.

I find it ironic that Ellison's remarks, for which he has apologized, were brought to my attention partly by angry readers who had defended Donald Trump's right to insult entire groups of people with no apologies. Is Trump's demand to be "treated fairly" too precious to be extended to Democrats?

I don't recall any apology, for example, for Trump's phony birther campaign in which he led us on a merry chase after President Barack Obama's birth certificate that he had to know was bogus from its very beginnings.

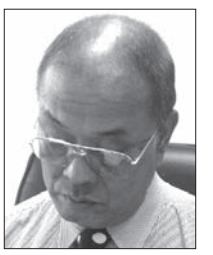
The closest he has come to an apology for his various blows against "political correctness" came in a 90-second videotaped acknowledgement of regret for a decade-old audio tape in which he boasted about grabbing women's genitals. Does accountability matter anymore?

That's why I don't disagree with the nonpartisan ADL or anyone else who wants Ellison to account for his past controversial statements. If politicians are not accountable to the public for what they say or do, our democracy is meaningless.

But those who say they have changed for the better should be allowed to prove themselves. "Give him a chance," is the mantra we hear from Trump loyalists, now that he is about to be sworn in as president. Fine. But Ellison deserves a chance, too.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Fitme Na Pisun Tinituhun



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Establisau na i primet lugat edukasion i patgon gaige gi halum guma`. I lugat propiu sa` todu i dos saina gaige para uma-esgaihon i patgon. I primet na liñguahe siempre umatutuhun gi finu` Chamorro sino Refalawasch.

I finana`guen liñguahe gi gima` i primet leksion `nai ha tutuhun i patgon humuñgog yan fuma palabra haf hineñgogña. Tres eskalera `nai u falofan i patgon: Umekuñgog taimanu sasañganmu, pronunsiasion-mu yan haf` kinemprendeña gi palabra ni un` sañgan. Estague` primet pisun ineyag. Adumididi` sige i patgon ha chagi kumuentos.

Esta hana fañachaleg hit `an sigi ha dopbla hila`ña kumuentos. Enfin, sigi mona siempre u fitme hila`ña `nai mattu gi kuattro esta siñko años. Obligasion dos saina i primet na finana`guen liñguahe ni debi umatutuhon gi gima!

Yangin ma-upus este na patte gi primet leksion i patgon, pues siempre ni guiya mismu tiha tuñgu` liñguahiña. Tatnai sisida para u e`eyag ginen halum kuattun eskuela pot diskuidun mañaina. Gaige i primera lugat ineyag gi gima`!

I responsablidat sisteman edukasion layeye pot para u konfitma haf` ineyag famaguon ginen i gima`. Dispues, humalum fotmalidat `nai matutuhun i patgon mafana`gue pot letra, mañge` ti manmapot siha gi finu` Chamorro. Yangin felis i patgon ya siña ha tugi` un` sentensia kabales, pues añgoghu na ti umalefa ni hila` nanaña. I matuge` na finu` Chamorro solu sahyan `nai siña ma`ug i liñguahita.

Poresu na maseha manu na nasion isla gi halum iya Pasifiku maprekura finana`guen mañgge` gi finu` niha. Este solu na chalan yan karera `nai libianu mapega petmanente usun liñguahen natibu! Yangin ineyag chanseru pues siempre man-naufragu famaguon-ta gi mismu hila` niha! I futturon natibu gi haye yan hafague` gaige gi liñguahiña.

Chenot Patlinu: Mampus achagu` i sentimentu ni malagnus antes de eleksion yan resuttan botasion. Para todu i mala`et na ekspressiu haf` na otru masusedi?

Hu akanteha para bai li`e klaru haf` masusedi. Era mafañagu tropan patlinu ni lumolofan nina`en fondun salape` ginen i mas tatkilu` na patlinu.

Ma-entrega i hihot na parentela siha ni mangai koneksion yan membron lehislatura yan administrasion para u patten ñaihon i botadot. Dispues guaha man-sañgan na guaha lokue` gi membron lehislatura mañaunau gi programan patlinu. Mapatte tautau niha para u fañgontentu.

Gi hilu` este megai tautau-ta didog pinadesin niniha na esta maput manhassu tunas yan kabales gi diariu na mattirun inaligau nesessidat familia. Estague` masusedi ya i mismu pumega tautau-ta guine na estau umatrebi siha chumuli` bintaha kontra tautau-ta mismu.

Espirituat: I otru sumen impottante na finana`gue i linala` espirituat. Estague` na pisu `nai siempre umeyag i patgon haf mauleg yan baba.

Hana` fitmi este na patte ya guiya mismu muna` tunug i añklan linala`ña gi inai. Ni kuantu na rimulinu siempre fitmi botiña gi halum napun lina`la`. Asegura na in` fanague famaguon nu este sa` siempre u fan gai`asi` yan motmut dignu na respetu gi otru. Mas libre inafamauleg gi entre natibu!

Repara sa` sumen na`malagu` famaguon gi che`chu` maseha familia ni tumuñgu` kinalamten halum guma`. Siha mismu buluntariamente pumega siha mona gi bandan ayudu piot gi halum kusina. Manmagof na famaguon gi ha`anen niha. `An para yeñgyoñg damagas ha` maulegña ti mattu man-ayuda!

Areglu: Man-dañkulu hit gi halum motmut akonsehu yan krineansa ginen mañaina-ta yan man-maestro-ta siha. Esta manfatigau hit manadan inadiñgan lau dañkulu na benefisiu gi `nai kada unu umapattague` ginen pettan sanmena.

Taya` huli`e mapresu pot mañaki sino mamunu` gi halum mancha-idathu. Memegaiña manfelis hinanau niha! Mauleg na kontribusion mapega gi santatte kulan taiguihe lastrun deñgdeñg `nai malofan gi halum hatdin.

**Dinaña`:** Este dinaña` dos tautau debi sinsiyu na pisu `nai u tachu. Achog asuntun kasamientu, debi u guaha magahet na inaguaiya gi dos tautau para u daña`. Ti pot parehu hit man-ñgañgañgas pugua` sino pupulu para tafa` katsun kasamientu.

Dimalas sa` desde kuattru siglu antes masepara i natibu. Ni este na inisague ti tinilaika makontinuan haf` kutturan tanu` gi dos lugat. Felis hinanau kada unu. Poresu na ti huli`e lehitimu sino sustansiau motibu haf` namafa` tampen sinetnan i kuttura pot eskusun konbiñienti.

Para i tautau sankattan, gef atan i mapropoponi kau ti tegchu` na galagu ni minagagon kinilu pot para u libianu fuma sentada hit todus. Guahan taya` ha nesessita solu dikiki` na madog pot estau politika `nai dispues libianu fuetsau i Congresson Amerika hana` fan daña hit todu.

Uttimoña i presenti na sistema madiroga `nai manmama` soñgsoñg hit `nai todu nesessidat-ta debi ta fan dimu kulan esklabu giya Hagatña. Este in` guiguife? Poresu na ileleghu gef atan kau ti tegchu` i umuririya gi hiyuñg i kelat!

Estoria: Un` tiempu hufa` amigu un` presineru. Era hu keketuñgu` haf` bidadaña diariu. `Nai sigi mona, in` tutuhun konbetsasion offisiat polisia siha.

Ilegña, "Ayu na ma`gas ha saki makinan jeep, si benganu ha saki icebox, pa`gu ayu i tihu-ta sessu mañaki neñkanu presineru". Maput ti bai hoñggi sa` gaige gi sanhalum ya guiya lumolofan i ansaki siha. Dios mihu esta hu katsu poduñg kiahadas-hu ni finu` i presineru. Magahet!

Guaha ha` lokue` gi halum presineru humasñgun man-isague lai pot para u mapresu. Era, maulegña linala`ña gi sanhalum ke i señgsoñg `nai debi u espihan maisague`! Komprendiyun!

Gastu: I gastun kada presineru desde neñkanu` yan otru siha gastu kasi ennau i $3,000 gi mes. Guaha 300 pa`gu na presineru. Kasi gastun niha gi sakan ennau i $12 Miyon. Hita ennau na gastu umapapasi ginen kontribusion-ta aduana (taxes).

Kanaha` parehu na gastu gi ayu siha na manmalañgu i manmakukula haga` niha pot matai reñihion. Pot todu, mas ke $25 Miyon este na gastu; i unu pot che`chu` kriminat, i otru pot diskuidun hinemlu`. Todu i dos chinatsaga satbayun. I kuestion: Ñgai`an `nai para ta tutuhu umestudiaye pattisipasion todus gi masatban este siha na chinatsaga!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I donut niid edukashun; I hab kommon cents

Editor's Note: The following is being published as a series due to its length.

Over on Rota more than 20 years ago, we were hit by Typhoon Pongsona. Amongst the damage done, the gym in Songsong was badly hit. The person, whose responsibility was the gym, missed the deadline for a FEMA grant to repair it, which would once again have made it usable. For 20 years the gym was not available to the community and eventually it was "given" to PSS with the hope that they would be able to repair it within the scope of their budget. Did this responsible person exhibit common sense? No. Does he think or say he has common sense? Probably. Can Rota afford many more mistakes like this one? Certainly not.

Please think about it.

"I'll do my best." So, it's 200 years ago, you're living on Saipan and, as the man of the house at the start of the day, you begin to depart home, saying to your wife, "I'm going to fish, hunt, and gather." She'd say, "Don't forget—the neighbors are joining us for dinner!" And you'd reply, "I'll do my best!" And you wife would roll her eyes upward, smile, and shake her head. How many times had she heard that followed by a sparse meal?

Two hundred years ago, there were lots to fish to hunt and harvest on Saipan. "Doing your best" fit with the availability. But life is different now. Even the jobs that pay only a little more than minimum wage require Russian, Korean, Japanese, or Mandarin. But our kids have a hard time after graduation speaking, writing, and reading English. Many can hardly add, subtract, multiply, or divide but every job requires basic math at some level. But PSS says it's doing its best and exceeding expectations! But the problem is highly exacerbated in government positions (i.e. department heads) that are appointed and not competitively filled. "Local" is not really a qualification. For the unqualified, doing their best just isn't good enough. If they really wanted to do their best, they would return to school, preferably university, and study in the area in which they hope to get appointed or an area that's their passion and needed in the CNMI. We need people with a graduate degree in Economics (undergrad is incomplete), or undergraduate degrees in urban planning, natural resource management, marine science, finance, accounting (the stuff of becoming a CPA, not a bookkeeper), and attorneys? Nope, we have plenty.

"I think that it's time for me to serve the people." Really, this is your reason for running for elected office? It begs the question: What have you been doing all this time up to the present? Have you not been serving the people? In my experience, it is very difficult to shift allegiances from family and friends and yourself, to "the people." In fact, the elected office simply serves as a platform to continue to serve your family, friends, and yourself. Not exactly what I would call a "public servant" and it is what has gotten us into so many problems in the past with unqualified people hired, bribes taken, and such.

You can trust me, I'm sincere. In the early 1900s, one of the most qualified nurses in the Chicago area went to work at Chicago's largest hospital. She was working the 11pm to 7am shift in the maternity ward. A large hospital equals a lot of babies. By the end of her shift, every baby had died. At the scheduled feeding time, she removed a bottle from the cabinet but took a bottle of cleaning solvent rather that baby formula (this will likely never happen in one of our hospitals today—the checks and balances are too well-defined) and fed it to each baby. She was sincere but she was sincerely wrong.

In the 1950s, Egypt undertook its largest infrastructure development project in history: the building of the Aswan Dam on the Nile River. The purpose of the dam: electrical generation. It was a project contracted to the Soviet Union and some of its brightest designers, engineers, and mathematicians. The projected cost was US$3 billion. When the dam was completed and was being filled, they discovered that it would never fill (and the hydroelectric generating targets never reached). You see, at the three-fourth level, the amount of water entering the reservoir equaled the amount of water evaporating from the surface of the reservoir. The Soviet scientists failed to calculate the evapo-transpiration rate of the reservoir's surface area. Three more dams had to be constructed to regain the electrical target as an additional cost of US$3 billion. Sincere, but way off the mark.

A much-needed bridge was built over the Columbia River, which connected Oregon and Washington. Everyone was so very pleased and proud at its completion. But when the wind arose—common at the mouth of the Columbia Rive—the bridge began to move harmonically, like the waves in the ocean. Within minutes, the bridge was completely destroyed! The engineers neglected to consider wind-bridge harmonics. Again, their sincerity was not in question.

To be continued

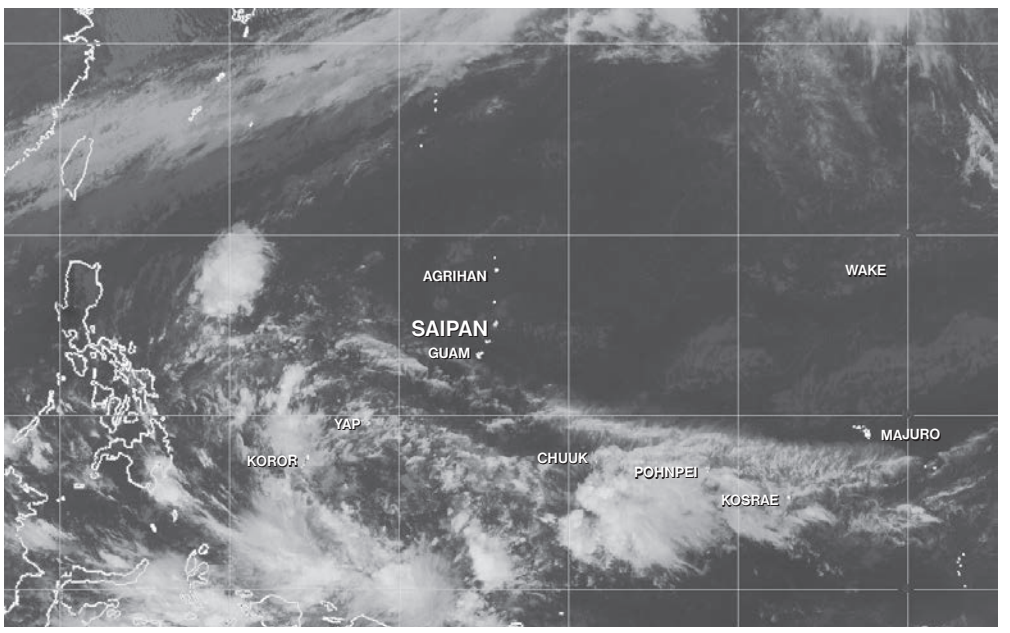
Arnold J. Mesa
Chinatown, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:15 AM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery this morning shows a few large patches of clouds to the east of the Marianas. Models do show patches of showers over the local area tonight through Thursday. These showers are probably the result of trade-wind convergence. Deep layer moisture is not too high so just expect periods of mostly cloudy skies while keeping shower coverage isolated. Breezy east winds of 10 to 20 mph will prevail across the Marianas through the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Mostly sunny	82 / 88 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	79 / 85 °F
Yap	Morning clouds	77 / 86 °F
Chuuk	Morning clouds	78 / 86 °F
Pohnpei	Morning clouds	77 / 85 °F
Kosrae	Partly cloudy	80 / 86 °F
Majuro	Sunny	82 / 85 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Afternoon clouds	59 / 71 °F
Beijing	Partly cloudy	62 / 72 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	63 / 71 °F
Honolulu	Partly sunny	71 / 78 °F
London	Decreasing cloudiness	44 / 55 °F
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	47 / 63 °F
Manila	Broken clouds	79 / 90 °F
Melbourne	Sunny	48 / 78 °F
Miami	Overcast	74 / 81 °F
New York	Overcast	39 / 48 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	34 / 54 °F
Paris	Partly cloudy	33 / 48 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	28 / 53 °F
Rome	Sunny	36 / 56 °F
Salem	Partly sunny	25 / 36 °F
San Francisco	High level clouds	43 / 52 °F
Seoul	Partly cloudy	26 / 45 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	39 / 48 °F
Washington, DC	Morning clouds	34 / 50 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
6:41 AM	LOW TIDE	0.17 Feet
1:50 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.93 Feet
8:23 PM	LOW TIDE	0.89 Feet
-	-	-

	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:31 AM	5:46 PM
Thursday	6:31 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Saturday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Sunday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:14 AM	-	
Thursday	-	12:23 AM	12:59 PM
Friday	-	1:18 AM	1:45 PM
Saturday	-	2:15 AM	2:32 PM
Sun day	-	3:14 AM	3:22 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 5, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	7, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, THAT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL SYSTEM SHALL BE APPLIED AND ADMINISTERED ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AS DEFINED BY THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC LAW 6 - 10, REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, SEX, RELIGION, POLITICAL AFFILIATION OR BELIEF, MARITAL STATUS, DISABILITY OR PLACE OF ORIGIN. APPLICANTS FOR THIS POSITION MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN OR IS ELIGIBLE AND AUTHORIZED TO WORK IN THE U.S., INCLUDING THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

CONTINUOUS & UNTIL FILLED JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LOCATION	POSITION/TITLE	TOTAL POSITION	JVA NO.	CLOSING DATE
San Vicente Elem. School, William S. Reyes Elem.School	Teacher Aide (Chamorro and Carolinian Language Heritage Studies) (Amendment V) (ReAnnouncement V)	1	PSS 2015-181	May 02, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Speech Language Pathologist (ReAnnouncement V)	1	PSS 2014-138	Oct. 09, 2015 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Speech Language Pathologist	1	PSS 2015-294	Oct. 20, 2015 – Until Filled
Early Intervention Program	Speech Language Pathologist	1	PSS 2015-295	Oct. 20, 2015 – Until Filled
Office of Student Support Services	Classroom Teacher (ELL/Literacy) Amendment/ReAnnouncement	1	PSS 2015-257	Nov. 19, 2015 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2015-332	Dec. 15, 2015 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Instructor – Sign Language Interpreting	1	PSS 2016-003	Jan.26, 2016 – Until Filled
JROTC Program	JROTC Army Instructor	1	PSS 2016-004	Feb. 08, 2016 – Until Filled
JROTC Program	Director of Army Instruction	1	PSS 2016-005	Feb. 08, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Special Education School Counselor – Behavioral Specialist (Amendment)	1	PSS 2016-015	March 8, 2016 – Until Filled
Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies Program, San Vicente Elem. School	Instructor I (CCLHS) (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-023	May 2, 2016 – Until Filled
Early Head Start/Head Start Program	Early Head Start Family Partnership (Re-Announcement II)	1	PSS 2015-311	April 19, 2016 – Until Filled
Early Head Start/Head Start Program	Early Head Start Secretary I (Re-Announcement II)	1	PSS 2015-212	April 19, 2016 – Until Filled
Early Head Start/Head Start Program	Practice Based Coach (Re-Announcement VI)	1	PSS 2014-172	April 19, 2016 – Until Filled
Food & Nutrition Services Office	Part-Time Food Monitor (3 positions) (Re-Announcement)	3	PSS 2015-308	May 02, 2016 – Until Filled
Federal Programs Office	Social Media Intern	1	PSS 2016-036	May 2, 2016 – Until Filled
Food & Nutrition Services Office	Part-Time Food Monitor (Re-Announcement II)	1	PSS 2015-317	May 18, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Occupational Therapist III-IV (Re-Announcement XXXVII – 1 Position)	1	PSS 2012-074	May 18, 2016 – Until Filled
Kagman High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-052	May 23, 2016 – Until Filled
Food & Nutrition Services Office	Nutrition Assistant Monitor (Re-Announcement II)	1	PSS 2015-310	May 26, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Teacher Aide	1	PSS 2016-063	June 16, 2016 – Until Filled
Garapan Elementary School	Building Maintenance Worker (Re-Announcement IV)	1	PSS 2015-149	June 16, 2016 – Until Filled
Marianas High School	Classroom Teacher (Career Technical Education)	1	PSS 2016-090	July 12, 2016 – Until Filled
Sinapalo Elementary School	Instructor I (CCLHS)	1	PSS 2016-107	July 22, 2016 – Until Filled
William S. Reyes Elementary School	Instructor I (CCLHS)	1	PSS 2016-111	July 29, 2016 – Until Filled
Head Start Program, Tinian	Family Partnership Advocate (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2015-336	July 29, 2016 – Until Filled
Garapan Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-121	Aug. 11, 2016 – Until Filled
Marianas High School	Instructor I-II (CTE) (Amendment)	1	PSS 2016-122	Sep. 27, 2016 – Until Filled
Marianas High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified) (2 Positions)	2	PSS 2016-123	Aug. 11, 2016 – Until Filled
San Vicente Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified) Class Size Reduction	1	PSS 2016-126	Aug. 11, 2016 – Until Filled
Tinian Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-136	Aug. 11, 2016 – Until Filled
Early Head Start/Head Start Program	Early Head Start Site Coordinator	1	PSS 2016-040	Aug. 19, 2016 – Until Filled
Saipan Southern High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-142	Sep. 02, 2016 – Until Filled
Oleai Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified) (2 Positions)	2	PSS 2016-150	Sep. 02, 2016 – Until Filled
Sinapalo Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified) (2 Positions)	2	PSS 2016-151	Sep. 02, 2016 – Until Filled
Koblerville Elementary School	School Counselor (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-154	Sep. 02, 2016 – Until Filled
Tinian Jr. Sr. High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-160	Sep. 02, 2016 – Until Filled
Marianas High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified) (3 Positions)	3	PSS 2016-162	Sep. 02, 2016 – Until Filled
Saipan, Tinian, Rota	Distance Education Course Online Teachers (Re-Announcement III)	1	PSS 2015-320	Sep. 16-Until Filled
Saipan, Tinian, Rota Schools	Instructional Technology Instructor (24 Positions)	24	PSS 2016-163	Sep. 13, 2016 – Until Filled
Oleai Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified) (2 Positions)	2	PSS 2016-165	Sep. 13, 2016 – Until Filled
Garapan Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-170	Sep. 13, 2016 – Until Filled
Administrative Services Office	Webmaster (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-147	Sep.21, 2016 – Until Filled
Student Support Services	Education Specialist I-V (Family Engagement & Community Involvement Coordinator) (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-148	Sep.21, 2016 – Until Filled
Francisco M. Sablan Middle School	Instructor (CCLHS) (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-144	Sep. 21, 2016 – Until Filled
Office of Student Support Services	Education Specialist III-V (ELL Program Coordinator)	1	PSS 2016-172	Sep. 28, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified) (5 Positions)	5	PSS 2016-177	Sep. 28, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Education Psychologist	1	PSS 2016-181	Sep. 28, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Special Education School Counselor – Behavioral Specialist	1	PSS 2016-182	Sep. 28, 2016 – Until Filled
Special Education Program	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-183	Sep. 28, 2016 – Until Filled
Office of Curriculum & Instruction	Education Specialist I-V (Social Studies Program Coordinator)	1	PSS 2016-185	Sep. 28, 2016 – Until Filled
Office of Student Support Services	Instructional Technology Director	1	PSS 2016-046	Oct. 25, 2016 – Until Filled
Saipan Southern High School	School Librarian	1	PSS 2016-188	Oct. 25, 2016 – Until Filled
DanDan Middle School	Classroom Teacher (Amendment)	1	PSS 2016-190	Nov. 10, 2016 – Until Filled
Hopwood Jr. High School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-192	Oct. 25, 2016 – Until Filled
Hopwood Jr. High School	School Vice Principal I-II	1	PSS 2016-193	Oct. 25, 2016 – Until Filled
ChaCha Ocean View Middle School	School Vice Principal I-II (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-133	Oct. 25, 2016 – Until Filled
Tinian Elementary School	Classroom Teacher (Highly Qualified)	1	PSS 2016-199	Nov. 10, 2016 – Until Filled
Leliyal Akkabwung Language Immersion Project	Classroom Teacher	1	PSS 2016-206	Nov. 10, 2016 – Until Filled
Saipan Southern High School	School Vice Principal I-II (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-132	Nov. 10, 2016 – Until Filled
Office of Curriculum & Instruction	Education Specialist I-V (English Language Arts) (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-031	Nov. 10, 2016 – Until Filled
Office of Curriculum & Instruction	Education Specialist Education Specialist I-V (Science Program Coordinator) (Re-Announcement III)	1	PSS 2016-032	Nov. 10, 2016 – Until Filled
Office of Accountability, Research, and Evaluation	Education Specialist III-V (School and Program Accountability Program Coordinator) (Re-Announcement III)	1	PSS 2016-109	Nov. 10, 2016 – Until Filled
Koblerville Elementary School	Custodial Worker (Re-Announcement)	1	PSS 2016-195	Nov. 10, 2016 – Until Filled
Human Resources Office	Personnel Specialist I-III	1	PSS 2016-210	Nov. 30 – Dec. 14, 2016
Office of Commissioner of Education	Human Resources Director	1	PSS 2016-211	Nov. 30 – Dec. 14, 2016
Office of Commissioner of Education	Director of Finance	1	PSS 2016-212	Nov. 30 – Dec. 14, 2016

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT ISETA CT., CAPITOL HILL BUILDING #1202 SAIPAN CNMI. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE; (2) TRANSCRIPTS; (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS); (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER; (5) RESUME; AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, ISETA CT., CAPITOL HILL BUILDING #1202 SAIPAN CNMI, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 664-3827. FREE COPY.

Capturing 'Who We Are' in our children's eyes

On Monday, 12 winners of the Imperial Pacific Holdings International's 2nd photography contest were presented to the public from all three divisions: Head Start/Kindergarten, elementary, middle school and high school. There were over 350 entries submitted that focused on a theme "Celebrating Who We Are."

HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

First place winner Tahj Salas of Saipan Southern High School ,11th grade.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Second place winner Karen Agulto of Marianas High School 10th grade

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION

First place winner Hanna Salcedo of Hopwood Junior High School, 8th grade.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Third place winner Pia Dela Cruz of Tinian High School, 11th grade. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Second place winner Seiji Gonzales of Cha Cha Oceanview Junior High School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Third place winner Destiny Cabrera of Cha Cha Oceanview Junior High School, 6th grade.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ELEMENTARY DIVISION
First place winner Mary Salcedo of William S. Reyes Elementary School, 5th grade.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Second place winner Toviann Masiwemai of Kagman Elementary School, 2nd Grade.

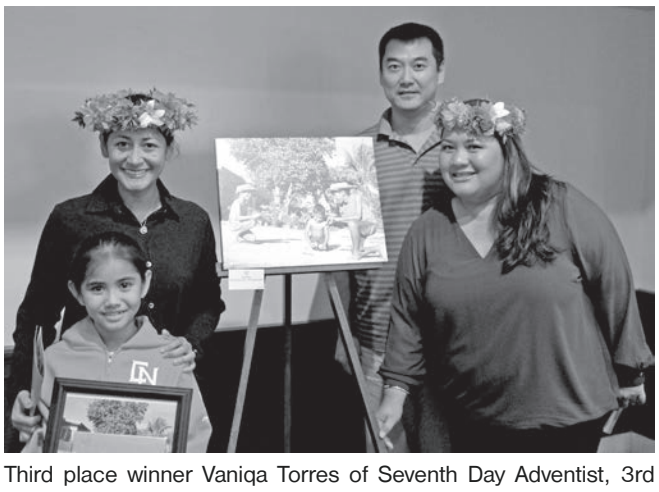
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HEAD START/KINDERGARTEN DIVISION
First place winner Logan Atalig of Chalan Kanoa Head Start.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First lady Diann Torres and her children pose with Imperial Pacific International chief services officer Tao Xing and Corporate Social Responsibility executive director Geri Dela Cruz.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Third place winner Vaniqa Torres of Seventh Day Adventist, 3rd grade.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Third place winner Maria Deleon Guerrero of SDA Kindergarten. Kyoko Deleon Guerrero accepted the award for her daughter.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Can't buy love? Drug price hikes put sex beyond reach

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Imagine not being able to afford one of life's great pleasures—sex.

That's true for many older couples, doctors say. Soaring prices for prescription medicines for impotence and other problems have put the remedies out of reach for some.

Without insurance coverage, Viagra and Cialis cost about $50 a pill, triple their 2010 list prices. The new "female Viagra," a daily pill for low sex drive called Addyi, costs $800 per month. Older products for women also have seen huge price run-ups, Truven Health Analytics data show.

AP

This Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2016 photo shows a display of prescription medicines for impotence and sexual problems at a doctor's office in San Diego.

"Many of them don't get past the pharmacy counter once they see the price," says Sheryl Kingsberg, a University Hospitals-Cleveland Medical Center behavioral psychologist and researcher who counsels men and women.

What people actually pay out of pocket varies. Some insurance prescription plans, including Medicare, cover some of the medicines. Some plans don't cover any, arguing they're not medically necessary. Many require steep copayments or limit the number of impotence pills per prescription.

"Once you get to a certain price point, sex becomes a financial decision," says Dr. Elizabeth Kavaler, a sexual dysfunction specialist at New York's Lenox Hill Hospital. "It takes a lot of the joy out of this."

Five of six specialists interviewed by The Associated Press say patients have told them they've given up sex because of the cost.

Now, a little relief is coming. Late next year, Viagra and Cialis will get at least one generic competitor costing slightly less; prices will plunge later when more generics reach the market. For women, an Addyi rival is in late-stage testing. A few other products now have generic versions, and other options are in development.

A generation ago, long-married couples accepted their sex lives trailing off with age, Kavaler says. Key hormone levels drop with age, reducing sex drive and causing problems such as impotence and vaginal dryness, which often makes intercourse painful.

Today, midlife divorce is more common, divorced or widowed men and women often seek new partners, and sex becomes important again. Meanwhile, they're bombarded by ads for impotence remedies and other treatments.

"Couples in their 50s, 60s and 70s are more sexual than they've ever been," says Kavaler.

Until Pfizer launched the first impotence pill, Viagra, in 1998, there were few options for men besides penile implants and injections. Viagra and Cialis each quickly topped $1 billion in global annual sales, and products for women's symptoms eventually followed. However, price hikes appear to be limiting usage for some products in the U.S., where prices aren't regulated.

Since 2010, the number of Viagra prescriptions filled in the U.S. has fallen 42 percent to about 5 million a year. Meanwhile, prescriptions for Cialis, which now has a popular daily pill option, have gone up slightly, according to health data firm QuintilesIMS.

Trump not saying what he'll do about Dakota Access pipeline

CANNON BALL, N.D. (AP)—Industry leaders are urging President-elect Donald Trump to make approval of the disputed Dakota Access oil pipeline a "top priority" when he takes office next month, while opponents who have protested the project for months are vowing to stay put on their sprawling North Dakota encampment despite harsh winter weather and a tribal leaders' call to leave.

The moves come after the Army declined to issue a permit for the $3.8 billion pipeline to cross under a Missouri River reservoir in southern North Dakota near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. While the Army's decision doesn't end the debate over the pipeline, industry analysts and the chairman of the Native American tribe that's led the protests said Monday they don't expect any developments for months.

Standing Rock Chairman Dave Archambault lauded the Army's decision as taking "tremendous courage," and National Congress of American Indians President Brian Cladoosby said it showed "respect for tribal sovereignty."

The Standing Rock tribe believes the 1,200-mile pipeline to transport North Dakota oil through the Dakotas and Iowa to a shipping point in Illinois threatens drinking water and cultural sites. Dallas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners has denied that and said the pipeline will be safe. The segment under Lake Oahe is the only remaining big chunk of construction.

"I am hopeful President-elect Trump will reject the Obama administration's shameful actions to deny this vital energy project," American Petroleum Institute President and CEO Jack Gerard said in a statement late Sunday. The institute represents the U.S. oil and natural gas industry.

Trump supports construction of the pipeline, spokesman Jason Miller told The Associated Press on Monday, but Miller wouldn't say whether Trump would reverse the Army's decision.

"We will review the full situation when we're in the White House and make the appropriate determination at that time," Miller said.

The Sunday announcement by Assistant Army Secretary Jo-Ellen Darcy does not actually deny an easement for the project, but says additional review is needed. That means the pipeline company cannot file an appeal because the project was not formally rejected.

Get used to it: Economists see "new normal" of slow growth

Americans should get used to a "new normal" of slow economic growth, business economists say.

The median estimate from economists surveyed by the National Association for Business Economics calls for the American economy to grow 2.2 percent in 2017, up from a forecast 1.6 percent this year and unchanged from the previous survey in September.

The improved number is still lackluster by historical standards. U.S. economic growth averaged 3.1 percent a year from 1948 to 2015, according to the Congressional Research Service. But the business economists say Americans need to get used to slow growth: 80 percent of those surveyed believe the potential growth rate of the American economy will remain at 2.5 percent or lower over the next five years.

The economy has been hobbled by an aging work force and weak gains in productivity.

Still, the economists see the risk of a recession as remote; 90 percent expect the current economic expansion to continue until at least 2018.

They expect employers to add an average 168,000 jobs a month in 2017, down from 180,000 a month so far this year.

Those surveyed also predict the unemployment rate, which fell to a nine-year low 4.6 percent last month, will average 4.7 percent in 2017.

A healthy job market means wage growth is likely to outpace inflation this year and next, the economists say. They see consumer prices rising 2.3 percent next year, almost double the 1.2 percent increase they expect this year.

Two-fifths of the economists say increased spending on roads, bridges and other infrastructure projects would be the best way to boost economic growth over the next four years; 36 percent chose tax reform, which usually includes reducing the high official U.S. corporate tax rate in exchange for closing tax loopholes. President-elect Donald Trump has said both infrastructure spending and tax reform will be priorities in his administration.

The economists expect the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates at its meeting next week and to follow up with two more rate hikes next year.

Amazon Go store is checkout free

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon is testing a grocery store model in Seattle that works without checkout lines.

Called Amazon Go, shoppers scan their Amazon app when they enter the store, and then sensors register items that shoppers pick up and automatically charge them to the Amazon app.

If a shopper puts the item back they aren't charged.

The store offers ready-to-eat meals, staples like bread and milk and meal-making kits.

The store is in testing and is open to Amazon employees on a trial run. It is expected to open to the public in early 2017.

The e-commerce powerhouse has also been dipping its toe into the physical realm. It has opened three bookstores in California, Oregon and Washington with traditional check outs. Two more are in the works in Illinois and Massachusetts.

Cowen & Co. analyst John Blackledge says the new grocery store is just one way that Amazon has been setting its sights on the food and beverage category, a lucrative $795 billion market. It also offers grocery delivery in some markets and Prime Now for last-minute items delivered in one or two hours.

"We are encouraged by Amazon's growing footprint in this category, which we see as ripe for potential disruption given younger demos increasingly purchasing food and beverage grocery items via digital channels," Blackledge said.

Amazon.com Inc. shares rose $18.69, or 2.5 percent, to $759.03 in afternoon trading Monday. Its shares are up almost 13 percent since a year ago.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
19,216.24	2,204.71	5,308.89
+45.82	+12.76	+53.24
0.24%	0.58%	1.01%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3414	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7555	Russian Rouble	63.841
British Pound	0.7845	Indian Rupee	68.03	Singapore Dollar	1.4193
Canadian Dollar	1.3279	Japanese Yen	113.85	South Korean Won	1167.89
Chinese Yuan	6.8705	Malaysian Ringgit	4.4363	Swiss Franc	1.007
Euro	0.9294	New Zealand Dollar	1.4005	Taiwan Dollar	31.937
		Philippine Peso	49.62	Thailand Baht	35.6

Nation

Sheriff: 'Don't believe' more bodies in warehouse fire

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Terry Ewing was among the anxious family and friends who received confirmation Monday of what he already knew in his heart: His girlfriend was among the three dozen killed in the Oakland warehouse fire.

Authorities confirmed the death of Ara Jo as the death toll rose to 36. Prosecutors also said Monday that murder charges could result from their investigation into the fire that broke out during an underground dance party at a building known as the "Ghost Ship."

Alameda County Sheriff Gregory Ahern told The Associated Press he didn't believe there would be additional bodies found in what is the most lethal building fire in the U.S. in more than a decade.

But he cautioned that it was "impossible to be absolutely positive" until the entire recovery effort is complete. Authorities had gone through about three-quarters of the building by Monday afternoon.

The laborious job of digging with shovels and buckets through the debris was suspended overnight because of a dangerously unstable wall. It resumed in the morning, though a rainstorm Tuesday could complicate the effort. The cluttered warehouse had been converted to artists' studios and illegal living spaces, and former denizens said it was a death trap of piled wood, furniture, snaking electrical cords and only two exits.

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley said Monday her office has sent a team to search for evidence of a crime in the warehouse, but has not yet determined whether a crime even occurred. She said potential charges could range from involuntary manslaughter to murder. She declined to say who her team has interviewed.

"It's too early to speculate on anything," O'Malley said. "We just started our investigation, and we owe it to the community and those who perished in this fire, and those who survived the fire to be methodical, to be thorough, and to take the amount of time it takes to be able to look at every piece of potential evidence."

AP

Emergency personnel stage in front of the site of a warehouse fire that started Friday night and killed dozens, Sunday, Dec. 4, 2016, in Oakland, Calif.

Oakland city councilman Noel Gallo, who lives a block from the warehouse, said he confronted the property's manager—Derick Ion Almena—several times about neighbors' concerns about trash in the street and in front of the warehouse. Gallo said Almena essentially told authorities to "mind their own business" and appeared resistant to addressing complaints and complying with city codes.

Almena and his partner, Micah Allison, ran the building's arts colony called the Satya Yuga collective.

Almena told San Jose television station KNTV in an interview Monday that about 20 people lived there. He said he had gone to a hotel Friday night with his wife and children because he was exhausted.

"We're sorry to the families and all the friends that have lost loved ones," he said, with Allison by his side holding his hand. "I gladly would give my entire life of fortune, of wealth of experience again and again and again, and I say this to you and I say this to the camera and to whoever is watching me that I surrender everything."

He denied knowing about the Friday night party, but acquaintances said the couple threw frequent parties open to the public, for fees collected at the door.

ACROSS THE NATION

Deputy dies when personal car goes into San Antonio sinkhole

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Officials say an off-duty sheriff's deputy has died and two other people hurt when two vehicles plunged into a water-filled sinkhole in San Antonio. The Bexar (bayr) County Sheriff's Office on Monday identified the victim as 69-year-old Deputy Dora Linda Nishihara (nee-shee-HAR'-uh), who was a courthouse bailiff. A crane was used to retrieve her personal car from water about 12-feet deep. Nishihara's body was inside the vehicle. Sheriff's spokesman James Keith says Nishihara was not working Sunday when her vehicle went into the sinkhole. Utility officials say the sinkhole appeared after a sewer line ruptured during heavy rain earlier Sunday.

Police: 2 shot during Christmas parade in North Carolina

SANFORD, N.C. (AP)—Police say two people have been shot during a Christmas parade in central North Carolina. Sanford Police Capt. Harold Layton tells the Sanford Herald that one person is in serious condition after the Monday evening shooting and the other person's injury is not life threatening. Multiple media outlets report that the parade was halted after several shots were fired about 8 p.m. Police say one suspect is in custody and the investigation is ongoing.

Texas releases abortion booklet citing refuted cancer links

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—A Texas state agency has released a new edition of a booklet for women considering an abortion that suggests there may be a link between terminating pregnancies and increased risks of breast cancer and depression. The Texas Department of State Health Services issued the new edition of "A Woman's Right to Know" on Monday. Since 2003, state law has mandated that pregnant women be provided information when mulling an abortion. The new edition of the booklet contains a section titled "Breast Cancer Risk," despite numerous, peer-reviewed studies that have refuted links between abortion and breast cancer. The booklet also says women who terminate pregnancies can become suicidal and infertile. The Supreme Court has struck down key provisions of Texas' 2013 law placing some of the nation's tightest restrictions on abortion.

No experience needed: Trump taps Carson for HUD secretary

NEW YORK (AP)—Donald Trump chose retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson on Monday to be secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, raising fresh concerns about the lack of experience some of Trump's Cabinet picks have with agencies they're now being chosen to lead.

Carson, who opposed Trump in the Republican primaries, has no background in government or running a large bureaucracy.

In addition, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, Trump's choice to be ambassador to the United Nations, has no foreign policy experience. Steve Mnuchin, a former Goldman Sachs partner and Hollywood executive, is Trump's man to lead the Treasury Department but has never worked in government. And retired Gen. James Mattis, a widely praised battlefield commander, spent decades in the Marines but now is tapped to run the nation's largest government agency, the Defense Department, with 740,000 civilian employees in addition to 1.3 million service personnel.

Democrats swiftly criticized Carson's qualifications for his job. House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi called him a "disconcerting and disturbingly unqualified choice." And New York Sen. Charles Schumer said he had "serious concerns about Dr. Carson's lack of expertise and experience in dealing with housing issues. Someone who is as anti-government as him is a strange fit for housing secretary, to say the least."

Carson would oversee a budget of nearly $50 billion that provides rental assistance for more than 5 million households. Demand for that assistance is high in part because housing costs are rising faster than incomes. HUD also promotes home ownership with the Federal Housing Administration underwriting about 1 in 6 mortgages issued in the U.S. The agency is charged with enforcing federal fair housing laws, too.

In a statement, Trump said he was "thrilled to nominate" Carson, describing his "brilliant mind" and his passion "about strengthening communities and families within those communities."

Carson, who grew up poor, quickly endorsed Trump after ending his own presidential bid despite Trump noting what he called Carson's "pathological temper." Carson has been coy about joining the new administration, saying shortly after Trump's election victory that he wasn't certain he'd fit into a Cabinet-style role in a job like Health and Human Services secretary.

Soot swept up: Business unharmed by wildfires set to reopen

GATLINBURG, Tenn. (AP)—Chirping and beeping filled the air as Marion Paul fired up her Gatlinburg video arcade Monday, the first time she's seen her business since deadly wildfires set much of the city ablaze a week ago. Sooty floors needed dusting. Spoiled food had to be tossed. Otherwise, she was set to reopen.

While several Gatlinburg areas resembled a war zone, the main business drag in this popular Tennessee tourist site was spared by the fast-moving flames.

A week ago on Monday, hurricane-force winds whipped up fires that killed 14 people and damaged or destroyed more than 1,750 buildings in the Great Smoky Mountains tourist region, carving a selective path that turned some buildings to rubble and at times left their neighbors unharmed.

As they gear up for Gatlinburg to reopen to the public on Friday morning, some businesses that were largely untouched are eager for a quick reopening in a crucial holiday season. Others that weren't as lucky have begun planning to rebuild.

"I mean, it's just a miracle because all of the businesses here (downtown), from what I can see, are saved," said Paul, owner of Fannie Farkle's arcade. "It's been a week today. But we're lucky to have our lives."

But just a short distance away from the downtown area, white smoke still billowed Monday from the scrap pile that remained of the Alamo Steakhouse in Gatlinburg.

Kelly Johnson, who owns the restaurant with her father and her husband, said she hopes to have the restaurant rebuilt by early 2018. The 35 employees, including four who lost their homes, will continue getting paid for up to a year.

"The reality is that we would have had nothing without them in the first place, so I really feel like it's the least we can do," Johnson said.

Johnson's family owns nine other restaurants in the area and another one is being built. None of the others were damaged, except for having to close temporarily and throw out food. The challenge for the region, she said, is overcoming misconceptions that Gatlinburg was destroyed.

Asia

Race to replace New Zealand leader Key grows to 3

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The race to replace New Zealand Prime Minister John Key, who stunned the nation by resigning this week, got a little crowded Tuesday with three conservative lawmakers saying they want to replace the popular leader.

The contenders are Deputy Prime Minister Bill English, Health Minister Jonathan Coleman and Corrections Minister Judith Collins. Several other National Party lawmakers said they have not ruled out entering the race.

In New Zealand, the prime minister is chosen by the governing party's top lawmakers, who make up the caucus. The caucus is expected to take a vote at a meeting on Dec. 12. The new prime minister will have about 10 months to run the country before a general election next year.

AP

In this Oct. 26, 2016 file photo, New Zealand's Prime Minister John Key waves to media before his meeting with Indian counterpart Narendra Modi in New Delhi, India.

Key had been a popular leader for eight years and was widely expected to contest a fourth straight election next year before he shocked the nation on Monday by announcing his resignation.

Key has endorsed English, who is also the finance minister. English, 54, led the National Party 15 years ago for two years. He suffered a big defeat in the 2002 election, which was won by the rival Labour Party led by Helen Clark.

Japanese leader Abe to visit Pearl Harbor with Obama

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will visit Pearl Harbor with U.S. President Barack Obama at the end of this month, becoming the first leader of his country to go to the U.S. Naval base in Hawaii attacked by Japan in 1941, propelling the United States into World War II.

Monday's unexpected announcement came two days before the 75th anniversary of the attack and six months after Obama became the first sitting U.S. president to visit the memorial in Hiroshima for victims of the U.S. atomic bombing of that city at the end of the same war.

Abe, in a brief statement to reporters, said he would visit Hawaii on Dec. 26 and 27 to pray for the war dead at Pearl Harbor and to hold a final summit meeting with Obama before the latter's presidency ends.

"We must never repeat the tragedy of the war," he said. "I would like to send this commitment. At the same time, I would like to send a message of reconciliation between Japan and the U.S."

The White House confirmed a meeting in Hawaii on Dec. 27, saying "the two leaders' visit will showcase the power of reconciliation that has turned former adversaries into the closest of allies, united by common interests and shared values."

More than 2,300 U.S. servicemen died in the aerial attack, which will be marked Wednesday by a remembrance ceremony and a moment of silence at 7:55 a.m., when the Japanese planes hit their first target.

Three and a half years later, the war came to an end after the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, and on the city of Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945. Japan surrendered six days later.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China sends another 120 army peacekeepers to South Sudan

BEIJING (AP)—China has sent 120 troops to South Sudan as part of a 700-member U.N. peacekeeping force, deepening its commitment to the troubled East African nation where two Chinese peacekeepers were killed in fighting over the summer. Once the entire battalion is deployed, they will replace Chinese peacekeepers currently in place, the second battalion to be deployed to South Sudan to protect civilians, U.N. staff and humanitarian workers, conduct patrols and provide security escorts. South Sudan has seen continuous fighting since its civil war broke out in December 2013. The more than 12,000 U.N. peacekeepers already in the country have been criticized for failing to protect civilians. China was an early investor in the new state's energy sector, but fighting and corruption have largely prevented it from reaping any benefits.

11 trapped in China's latest coal mine accident

BEIJING (AP)—A gas explosion has trapped 11 Chinese coal miners underground, in the latest in a string of deadly accidents striking the industry after 53 miners were killed in two similar blasts last week. China's state-run Xinhua News Agency reported that the Monday night explosion occurred at a mine in central China's Hubei province. It did not provide details on what caused the blast, but such incidents usually happen when unventilated coal gas is ignited by a spark or open flame. A person answering the phone at the local production safety office declined to answer questions, and then hung up. It's the third major mining accident in one week for China, the world's top producer and consumer of coal, where such deadly events occur frequently despite a stated public commitment to improving worker safety. A drive to boost training and technology has significantly reduced the carnage of the last decade, but demand for the fuel continues to provide incentives to cut corners in order to rush production.

World

UK Supreme Court hears landmark challenge to Brexit plans

LONDON (AP)—Britain's top judges vowed Monday to consider with impartiality the contentious question of who has the power to trigger the U.K.'s exit from the European Union—the government or Parliament.

The Supreme Court justices acknowledged that the case has aroused strong feelings over how and whether to leave the EU. It also has major constitutional implications for the balance of power between the legislature and the executive.

The court's most senior justice, David Neuberger, opened a four-day hearing by condemning the "threats of serious violence and unpleasant abuse" directed at lead claimant Gina Miller and others arguing that Parliament should have a say.

"Threatening and abusing people because they are exercising their fundamental right to go to court undermines the rule of law," Neuberger said, banning publication of the addresses of Miller and other parties in the case.

Neuberger and 10 other justices at the country's top court must decide whether Prime Minister Theresa May's government can invoke Article 50 of the EU's key treaty, the trigger for two years of divorce talks, without approval from lawmakers.

May plans to trigger Article 50 by the end of March, using centuries-old government powers known as royal prerogative. The powers—once held by the monarch but now used by politicians—enable decisions about joining or leaving international treaties to be made without a parliamentary vote.

Financial entrepreneur Miller and another claimant, hairdresser Deir Dos Santos, went to court to argue that leaving the EU would remove some of their rights, including free movement within the bloc, and that shouldn't be done without Parliament's approval.

Last month, three High Court judges agreed. But the government says they have misinterpreted the law.

Opening the government's arguments, Attorney General Jeremy Wright said the use of prerogative powers didn't undermine Parliament, because the legislature had been in the driver's seat throughout the referendum process.

Fake US embassy in Ghana shut down after 'about a decade'

ACCRA, Ghana (AP)—A fake U.S. embassy that operated for "about a decade" in Ghana's capital issuing counterfeit and fraudulently obtained visas has been shut down, the U.S. State Department announced.

The scam was orchestrated by "Ghanaian and Turkish organized crime rings" and a Ghanaian attorney, a statement said. Several suspects have been arrested, though others remain at large.

Raids led to the recovery of 150 passports from 10 countries and visas from the U.S., India, South Africa and the European Schengen zone.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Mark Toner said no one was able to enter the United States illegally using a counterfeit visa obtained at the fake embassy.

"This was a criminal, fraud operation masquerading as a fake U.S. embassy," he told reporters.

It was not clear how many people were defrauded by the fake embassy, which charged $6,000 for its services.

Those running the operation were able to bribe corrupt officials "to look the other way," the State Department said. Ghanaian officials said Monday they were still collecting information and were not prepared to comment.

"This is a shocker," said one Ghanaian official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to journalists about the case.

Toner said the fraudsters obtained Ghanaian and other passports with expired U.S. visas that were either lost or stolen. Using them as a prototype, they then produced counterfeit visas.

But, as Toner stressed, "It's very, very hard to counterfeit U.S. visas these days," including numerous security features such as biometric information to prevent fakes from being used.

To the best of the State Department's knowledge, he said, no one had even been caught at the U.S. border attempting to enter the country with such a document.

German chancellor denounces rape-killing of student

BERLIN (AP)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Monday denounced the rape and killing of a university student as a "tragic event," responding for the first time to a case that has inflamed passions since police arrested a 17-year-old Afghan migrant last week.

A nationalist party has seized on the death to argue that Merkel's government bears a share of the blame.

"If it turns out that (the perpetrator) was an Afghan refugee then that needs to be condemned, absolutely, just like with any other murderer," Merkel said in an interview with public broadcaster ARD.

"But that shouldn't be combined with a rejection of an entire group, just like we don't draw conclusions about an entire group from (the actions of) one person in other instances," she added.

The victim, a 19-year-old medical student, vanished in mid-October on her way home from a party in the southwestern city of Freiburg. Her body was found in a river.

Police say the suspect, who was arrested on Friday, was linked to the crime through DNA evidence and video footage from near the scene. The teenager, who entered Germany last year as an unaccompanied minor, hasn't made a statement. His arrest, however, has played into ongoing tensions about the arrival in Germany last year of hundreds of thousands of migrants.

Joerg Meuthen, a co-leader of the nationalist Alternative for Germany party, argued Sunday that Merkel and Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel bear "a decisive share of the responsibility for this cruel act and many other 'isolated cases' that have happened daily in Germany since the unhindered entry of illegal immigrants."

The nationalist party rose in polls following last year's migrant influx and hopes to enter the national Parliament in an election next year in which Merkel is seeking a fourth term. In the U.S., businessman Donald Trump focused on crimes linked to immigrants in the country illegally as part of his successful presidential campaign.

Good Housekeeping

This year's White House Gingerbread House in the State Dining Room of the White House during a preview of the 2016 holiday decor at the White House, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2016, in Washington. AP PHOTOS

White House Christmas theme: 'The Gift of the Holidays'

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The White House, is one of the fifty-six LEGO gingerbread houses, one for each state and territory, displayed in the trees in the State Dinning Room at the White House during a preview of the 2016 holiday decor, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2016, in Washington.

First lady Michelle Obama brings in the first family's dogs Sunny and Bo, as children of military families make holiday crafts and treats in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2016, during a preview of the 2016 holiday decor for military families.

WASHINGTON (AP)—For her family's final Christmas in the White House, Michelle Obama used the holiday decor to highlight her core initiatives as first lady: military service, education and health.

The familiar crowd-pleasers are still part of the annual show:

■ A towering tree dominates the Blue Room, trimmed as it has been in the past to honor the U.S. military and their families, an issue Mrs. Obama has emphasized.

■ Larger-than-life replicas of family dogs Bo and Sunny will greet tens of thousands of holiday visitors shortly after they enter through the East Wing.

■ And no White House Christmas would feel complete without the annual gingerbread version. This year's replica on display in the State Dining Room weighed in at more than 300 pounds, including 150 pounds of gingerbread covered in 100 pounds of bread dough to form the white exterior. Models of Bo and Sunny sit out front, and Mrs. Obama's revamped vegetable garden is represented.

Downstairs in the library, education is the theme. Ornaments on two trees are written with the word "girls" in 12 languages, honoring the first lady's "Let Girls Learn" initiative to help countries educate tens of millions of adolescent girls around the world. Other trees in the library are made out of crayons or pencils.

Mrs. Obama's "Let's Move" anti-childhood obesity is represented by a variety of fruit, to symbolize healthy eating, laid out in the Green and Red Rooms upstairs on the State Floor. Wreaths made of lemons and garlands made of limes decorate Green Room walls; clove-studded oranges, apples and pomegranates are mixed with greens to create wreaths for the Red Room.

"This year's holiday theme is 'The Gift of the Holidays,'" the first lady said Tuesday afternoon after unveiling the decorations for military families. "We're going to be celebrating our country's greatest gifts, with special decorations celebrating our military families." The theme is also meant to encourage people to reflect on "the true gifts of life," such as service, friends and family, education and good health, her office said in a statement describing the decorations.

More than 90 volunteer decorators from 33 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico began arriving on Thanksgiving to begin the monumental task of decorating the White House, doing everything from hauling boxes and making bows to hanging lights and wreaths and trimming trees. The 19-foot Blue Room tree arrived on Friday, and it took four days to get it ready, said volunteer decorator Patricia Ochan, of Arlington, Virginia.

The tree features mirrored ornaments and garland with the preamble to the U.S. Constitution. Besides the Blue Room tree, a second tree downstairs is decorated with gold ornaments in honor of service members who gave their lives for the country.

Ochan, a military spouse originally from Uganda, said it was "most exciting" to help decorate the Blue Room tree.

"I know how it feels not to have your loved one home with you for the holidays," she said.

Another highlight? Fifty-six Lego gingerbread houses, one for each state and U.S. territory, that are nestled in the branches of the trees in the State Dining Room. A team of Lego builders at the company's Connecticut offices crafted the houses from more than 200,000 Lego pieces, the White House said.

Most of the 70,000 ornaments and other decorations were reused, the White House said. Just 10 percent were new.

Life & Style

Judge: Prosecutors can use Bill Cosby's deposition at trial

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Damaging testimony that Bill Cosby gave in an accuser's lawsuit, including admissions that he gave young women drugs and alcohol before sex, can be used at his sex assault trial, a judge ruled Monday.

Cosby

The defense has insisted Cosby testified only after being promised he would never be charged over his 2004 encounter with accuser Andrea Constand. But his lawyers at the time never had an immunity agreement or put anything in writing.

"This court concludes that there was neither an agreement nor a promise not to prosecute, only an exercise of prosecutorial discretion," Montgomery County Judge Steven O'Neill wrote in his ruling.

Cosby, 79, acknowledged in the 2006 deposition that he had a string of extramarital relationships. He called them consensual, but many of the women say they were drugged and molested. Cosby, questioned about the 2004 encounter at his home with Constand, described being on his couch and putting his hand down her pants.

"I don't hear her say anything. And I don't feel her say anything. And so I continue and I go into the area that is somewhere between permission and rejection. I am not stopped," he said in his testimony.

Prosecutors describe Constand as being semiconscious after Cosby gave her three unmarked blue pills for stress that night. The release of the deposition testimony last year prompted them to reopen her 2005 police complaint and arrest Cosby days before the statute of limitations expired. O'Neill has vowed to try the case by June.

The ruling on the deposition is one of two key pretrial issues that will determine the scope of the evidence against Cosby. The other question is how many other accusers will be allowed to testify in prosecutors' attempt to show a pattern of similar conduct. Prosecutors hope to call 13 additional women who say they were assaulted by Cosby as far back as the 1960s. Two days of arguments on that issue are set for next week.

At a pretrial hearing earlier this year, O'Neill said that Cosby's decision to testify at the deposition could have been strategic. The actor—known as America's Dad for his top-rated family sitcom, "The Cosby Show," which ran from 1984 to 1992—could have invoked his Fifth Amendment right not to incriminate himself. But jurors would have heard of that decision if the case went to trial.

Cosby instead settled Constand's lawsuit, for an undisclosed amount, after finishing four days of testimony about his extramarital affairs, his friendship with Constand and other topics.

In another excerpt, Cosby described a phone call with Constand's mother a year later, when he refused to say what the pills were.

"I'm not going to argue with somebody's mother who is accusing me of something," he testified. "And I'm apologizing because I'm thinking this is a dirty old man with a young girl. I apologized. I said to the mother it was digital penetration."

Cosby also described getting seven prescriptions for quaaludes in the 1970s, which he said he kept on hand to give women he hoped to seduce, "the same as a person would say, 'Have a drink.'"

Constand had met Cosby at Temple University when she managed the women's basketball team. He was a prominent booster and university trustee. She went to police in 2005 to report that he had sexually assaulted her a year earlier after taking what Cosby described as an herbal product. Constand, then 30, was dating a woman at the time and had no romantic interest in the 66-year-old Cosby, her lawyer has said.

District Attorney Kevin Steele called the ruling on the deposition an important development in the 12-year-old case.

"Allowing the jury to hear Mr. Cosby's deposition testimony is another step forward in this case and will aid the jury in making its determination. It's important that we are able to present all of the evidence available," Steele said.

Defense lawyer Brian McMonagle had no comment on the decision.

Jessica Williams, Cate Blanchett star in Sundance premieres

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former "Daily Show" correspondent Jessica Williams flexes her dramatic chops, Cate Blanchett pays homage to great 20th century artists and "Silicon Valley" star Kumail Nanjiani tells a very personal story in some of the films premiering at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival.

Festival programmers announced their selections for the documentary and narrative premiere sections Monday, which has launched films like "Boyhood," ''Manchester by the Sea" and "O.J.: Made in America."

As with many years, the Sundance premiere slate can be a place for well-known comedians to take a stab at more dramatic and serious roles.

In what's expected to be one of the breakout films and performances of the festival, comedian Jessica Williams stars in Jim Strouse's "The Incredible Jessica James," about a New York playwright recovering from a breakup and finding solace in a recent divorcee.

Nanjiani is another who might surprise audiences in "The Big Sick," which he cowrote with his wife Emily V. Gordon and is based on their own courtship. He stars alongside Zoe Kazan in the Michael Showalter-directed pic.

The Festival also has films featuring veteran stars in different kinds of roles. Shirley MacLaine stars in "The Last Word," about a retired businesswoman who strikes up an unlikely friendship with a journalist (Amanda Seyfried) after writing her own obituary. Festival founder Robert Redford, too, is in Charlie McDowell's "The Discovery," about a world where the afterlife has been proven. Jason Segel and Rooney Mara also star.

Cate Blanchett re-enacts artistic statements of Dadaists, Lars von Trier and everyone in between in "Manifesto"; Michelle Pfeiffer and Kiefer Sutherland co-star in the drama "Where is Kyra"; and "Avengers" Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen re-team in the FBI crime thriller "Wind River," the directorial debut of "Hell or High Water" writer Taylor Sheridan.

"Bessie" director Dee Rees is also poised to be a standout with "Mudbound," a racial drama set in the post-WWII South and starring Carey Mulligan, Jason Clarke, Jason Mitchell and Mary J. Blige.

"It's quite topical to this time even though it's a period piece," said Festival Director John Cooper.

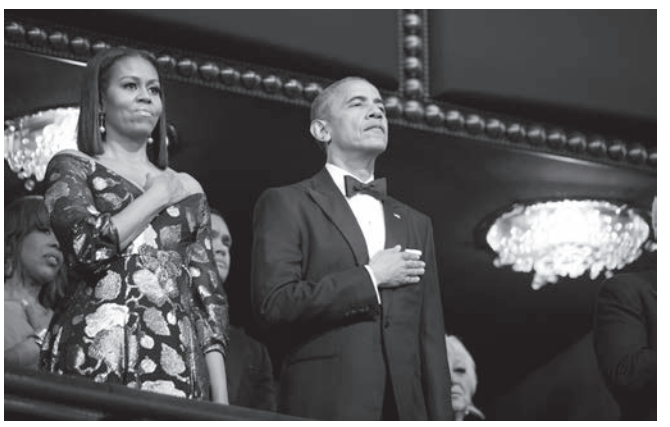
Among the documentaries premiering are a look at the Oklahoma City bombing from Barak Goodman; Stanley Nelson's examination of black colleges and universities, "Tell Them We Are Rising"; and Barbara Kopple's account of a champion diver who announces he is transgender, "This Is Everything: Gigi Gorgeous."

"The beauty of independent film is it's not a copycat world, unlike some of the Hollywood stuff where they follow trends," said Programming Director Trevor Groth. "Independent film has always been about originality and choice and something different."

The 2017 Sundance Film Festival runs from Jan. 19 through Jan. 29.

Standing ovation for Obama at his last Kennedy Center Honors

WASHINGTON (AP)—The longest, loudest standing ovation of the Kennedy Center Honors gala wasn't reserved for Al Pacino, Mavis Staples or the Eagles. Instead, it went to the man sitting to their left, attending his eighth and most likely his last honors presentation: President Barack Obama.


President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama, put their hand over their heart as the national anthem is sang during the Kennedy Center Honors Gala at the Kennedy Center in Washington, Sunday, Dec. 4, 2016. AP

While politics were absent from the tributes to the performers who were recognized for influencing American culture Sunday night, the arts community's affection for Obama—and its nervousness about President-elect Donald Trump—was palpable in the Kennedy Center Opera House.

The president and first lady Michelle Obama were introduced last, after Pacino and his fellow honorees: gospel singer Staples; pianist Martha Argerich; singer-songwriter James Taylor; and Don Henley, Timothy B. Schmit and Joe Walsh, the surviving members of the Eagles.

After a sustained ovation, host Stephen Colbert greeted the crowd of Washington insiders as "endangered swamp-dwellers," referencing Trump's "drain the swamp" campaign pledge. He joked that Obama would need to receive the honor to attend again and that "unlike the Nobel Peace Prize, they don't just give these away."

The Kennedy Center Honors are in their 39th year, a period that has included six presidents—three Republicans, three Democrats—and all have taken time to welcome the recipients. But the 2016 election was noteworthy for the way A-list performers lined up behind Obama and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, while Trump had relatively few celebrity endorsements.

Although the president has no say in who receives the awards, Colbert joked that next year's honorees would include Scott Baio, Gary Busey and Meat Loaf.

"For the past eight years, the White House has given us a leader who's passionate, intelligent and dignified," Colbert said, and the crowd rose for another prolonged ovation, prompting Obama to stand and wave.

"Sir, I don't even know why you stood up. I was talking about Michelle," Colbert said.

Earlier, at the White House, Obama welcomed the honorees at a reception and said participating in the gala was "one of the perks of the job."

"The arts have always been part of life at the White House because the arts are always central to American life," Obama said. "That's why over the past eight years Michelle and I have invited some of the best writers, musicians, actors and dancers to share their gifts with the American people and to help tell the story of who we are."

Kennedy Center chairman David Rubenstein also thanked the Obamas, noting that the president isn't required to attend the honors or host a reception. He offered them a "golden ticket" good for free admission to any event at the center.

"Parking is extra," Rubenstein said.

Another standing ovation went to Bill Clinton, who made a surprise appearance on stage to talk about how Taylor's music resonated with him and the American public in times that tested the nation's resolve.

"Our nation was reeling from the pain of Vietnam," Clinton said. "James was there to satisfy our hunger for both intimacy and authenticity."

Politics aside, the honors proceeded as usual, with musicians and actors taking the stage to pay tribute to the honorees, who stood on a balcony, waving and applauding as they wore the event's signature rainbow-colored garlands. The ceremony will be broadcast Dec. 27 on CBS.

The tribute to Pacino included remarks by Sean Penn and recitations of Shakespeare by Laurence Fishburne and Lily Rabe. Chris O'Donnell and Gabrielle Anwar re-enacted the tango that Pacino danced with Anwar in "Scent of a Woman," the 1992 movie that won Pacino his long-overdue Oscar.

Kevin Spacey gave a virtuoso tutorial on how to impersonate the actor whose passionate delivery has helped create some of the most memorable lines in American cinema. The keys are to look surprised and exhale loudly, Spacey said.

"Al seems to have a lot of air," he said.

Garth Brooks, Sheryl Crow and Darius Rucker performed medleys of Taylor's music. Yitzhak Perlman played violin and Yuja Wang played piano to honor the Argentine-born Argerich.

Staples' songs were performed by Elle King, Bonnie Raitt and Andra Day, and actor Don Cheadle spoke about the civil rights legacy of Staples and her family, who were close to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and performed at John F. Kennedy's inauguration.

"She's still fighting. She's still singing freedom songs," Cheadle said.

The Eagles were originally selected to be honored last year, but the band opted to delay participation because of founding member Glenn Frey's poor health. Frey died in January at age 67, making the event a bittersweet one for the surviving Eagles, who were joined by Frey's widow, Cindy Frey. Henley has said the band will never perform again. Bob Seger, Vince Gill, Kings of Leon and Colombian rocker Juanes performed the Eagles' music Sunday.

Jimmy Kimmel to host Academy Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—The Oscars finally have a host: Jimmy Kimmel will emcee the 89th Academy Awards.

The late-night host will be presiding over the ceremony for the first time. Kimmel has been a regular awards host, having twice previously hosted the Emmy Awards (including its broadcast in September) and once led ESPN's ESPY Awards.

The selection of Kimmel gives ABC, home of the Oscars telecast, the choice the network had long sought. His "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" has previously followed ABC's Oscar broadcast. The network also has new muscle to flex; it signed a deal with the Academy of Motion Pictures in August to remain the Oscar broadcast home until 2028.

Kimmel

"Yes, I am hosting the Oscars," Kimmel said on Twitter. "This is not a prank. And if it is, my revenge on the academy will be terrible and sweet."

The academy waited much later than usual to name a host for the Feb. 26 ceremony. This year's show is being produced by veteran producer Michael De Luca and Jennifer Todd, president of Ben Affleck and Matt Damon's production company, Pearl Street Films. This is also their first time producing the Oscars.

The lengthy search has perhaps been a product of increasing pressure on the broadcast. Last year's show was hosted by Chris Rock and was dominated by backlash over its second straight year of all-white acting nominees. Its 34.3 million viewers marked an 11-year low for the telecast.

Whether Kimmel can spark a comeback will be a considerable test for the 49-year-old comedian. His Emmy Awards broadcast on ABC drew a mere 11.3 million viewers, a new low.

But ABC Television Group chief Ben Sherwood publicly lobbied for Kimmel. In September he said the network was "very hopeful that Jimmy will get" the Oscar hosting gig and that he had "elevated" the Emmys.

This year's Oscar favorites don't appear to feature the kind of big, popular films that can drive audiences to watch the awards. The top contenders—"Moonlight," ''La La Land" and "Manchester by the Sea"—have together totaled less than $15 million at the box office, though "La La Land" is yet to open.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

First lady to sit down with Oprah for interview

WASHINGTON (AP)—First lady Michelle Obama will talk about her time in the White House during an interview with Oprah Winfrey that will air Dec. 19 on CBS. The network says Mrs. Obama will talk about her legacy as first lady and what's in store for her future. CBS is billing the event as Mrs. Obama's final one-on-one interview inside the White House. While there has been much speculation about what the first lady will do after leaving office, the president has discounted a life in politics. He told Rolling Stone magazine that "you can see the incredible resonance she has with the American people. But I joke that she's too sensible to want to be in politics."

Sculptor Helen Marten wins prestigious Turner Prize for art

LONDON (AP)—Helen Marten, who turns the detritus of everyday life into sculpture, has won the prestigious Turner Prize for art. Marten was named winner of the 25,000-pound (US$32,000) award at London's Tate Britain gallery on Monday. The judges praised the "poetic and enigmatic qualities" of Marten's work, made from found objects including nails, shoe soles, cotton buds and bicycle chains.

Marten, 30, hailed the three other "brilliant and exciting" finalists—Anthea Hamilton, Michael Dean and Josephine Pryde. Founded in 1984 and given annually to a Britain-based artist under 50, the prize often sparks heated debate about the value of modern art. Named for 19th-century landscape painter J.M.W. Turner, the award has helped make stars of potter Grayson Perry, shark pickler Damien Hirst and "12 Years a Slave" director Steve McQueen.

2 doors of Wal-Mart founder's first store donated to museums

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (AP)—Two doors from the first store owned by Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton have been donated to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington and The Walmart Museum in Bentonville, Arkansas. The doors from Walton's first shop, opened in 1945 in Newport, Arkansas, were stored for years by Ivy Brother Construction co-owner Gene Ivy, who renovated the store in the 1960s, according to the Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. The doors were a great find because nothing else was kept from the first store owned by the man who started the world's largest retailer, said Alan Dranow, senior director of the Wal-Mart Heritage Group. One door, its frame scattered with scratches and nicks from use, is currently on display in an illuminated case at the Arkansas museum.

Ashton Kutcher, Mila Kunis reveal new baby boy's name

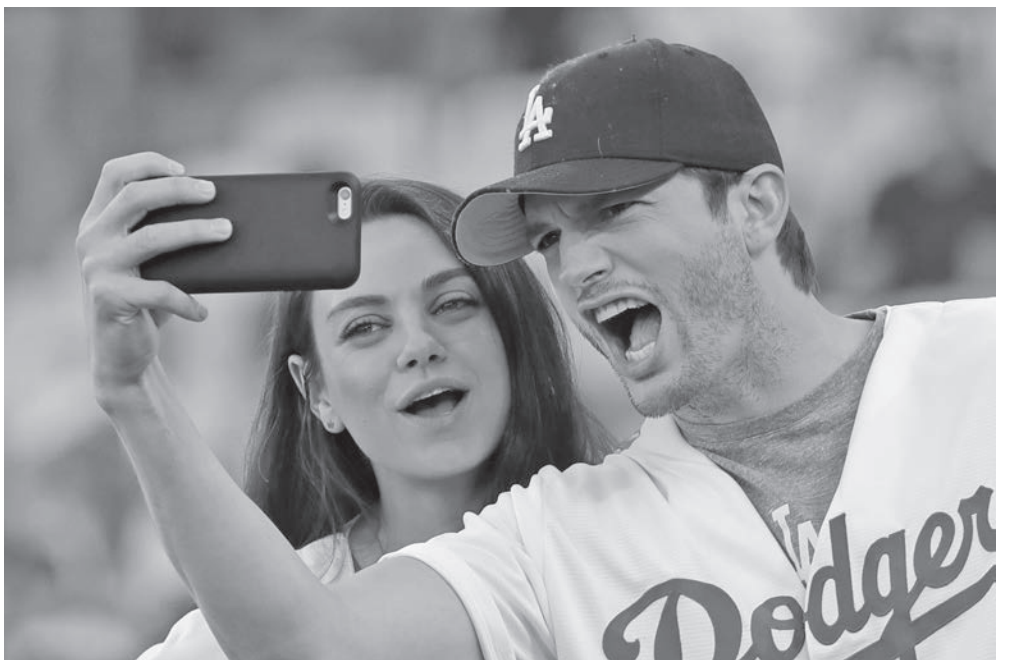
Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis have offered some details on the new addition to their family, a baby boy named Dmitri Portwood Kutcher.

Kutcher announced on his website that Dmitri was born at 1:21 a.m. on Nov. 30 and weighed in at 8 pounds, 15 ounces.

On the subject of baby photos for the public, Kutcher says in an article on his website that he and Kunis would "like to allow our kids to make their own choices on whether to have a life in the public eye or not," adding "we don't want to make the choice for them."

Dmitri is the couple's second child. Older sister Wyatt was born in 2014.

Kunis and Kutcher were co-stars on the sitcom "That '70s Show" and married in July 2015. ***(AP)***


AP

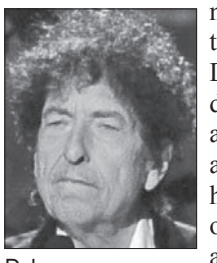
In this Oct. 19, 2016, file photo, Ashton Kutcher and wife Mila Kunis take a selfie before Game 4 of the National League baseball championship series between the Chicago Cubs and the Los Angeles Dodgers in Los Angeles.

Dylan writes Nobel Prize fest speech; Patti Smith to sing

STOCKHOLM (AP)—He won't be there in person but the Nobel Foundation says Bob Dylan has written a speech that will be read out at the traditional Nobel Prize banquet.

Dylan, the winner of this year's Nobel Prize in literature, declined the invitation to the Dec. 10 prize ceremony and banquet, pleading other commitments. But the Nobel Foundation said Monday that the singer-songwriter has written a "speech of thanks" that will be read by a yet-to-be-decided person at the lavish banquet in Stockholm's City Hall.

At the Nobel awards ceremony earlier that day, Patti Smith will perform Dylan's "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall" as a tribute to the 75-year-old.


Dylan

Nobel spokeswoman Annika Pontikis says Dylan's diploma and medal will be handed over at a later date that hasn't been determined yet.

Husband's multiple affairs leave wife in legal limbo

DEAR ABBY: My husband of five years has confessed to affairs that resulted in two children. I suspected that something was up when after a year of marriage he seemed distant. Despite our almost 15-year age difference, I never in a million years thought he would do something like this.

A few months ago, he started disappearing again. At first it was a day here and a day there, but then it became weeks. I finally confronted him, and he confessed about the affairs. He claims the mother of the newborn is a prostitute and that it was a "mistake." He wants to be involved in the 3-year-old little girl's life, but not the newborn's. At that point I told him he needed to leave and remove his belongings from the house.

My friends say that legally I can't put him out of a house he owned before we were married. However, he did buy a home during our marriage. (I found that out accidentally.) It's where the 3-year-old lives.

I feel I am entitled to something. I asked him to have the older child's mother move, but he refused. Where does that leave me? With nothing? I don't know what to do. I don't have money for a lawyer and have nowhere to go. Please advise.

WHAT A MESS IN PHILADELPHIA

DEAR WHAT A MESS: Your friends mean well, but you need a more informed source of information than they can offer. Because divorce laws vary from state to state, go online to womenslaw.org and search for "divorce in Pennsylvania." You will find basic information about divorce laws in your state, which I think you will find both interesting and rewarding.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a woman, twice married. My first marriage was to a woman who hurt me deeply by lying and cheating. I am now married to a man who, even with his faults, is a wonderful husband.

My thing is, I am still strongly attracted to women. I consider myself to be bisexual. When my husband notices that I look at women, I'm honest and tell him what I admire about a particular woman. What I leave out is that I'm turned on by them. He is not open to my actively being bisexual, not even a threesome.

Is it all right for me to fantasize when I'm intimate with him that he's a woman? I know some people fantasize about being with a celebrity or a more attractive mate, but is it all right to fantasize about someone of a different gender?

FANTASIZING IN NEW YORK

DEAR FANTASIZING: Your bisexuality is part of who you are. You should make clear to your husband that there is nothing "wrong" with being bisexual, and people who are can be and are monogamous. A commitment is a commitment, and you are sticking to yours.

Sexual fantasies are normal. And you're right that many people besides yourself fantasize about others (of both sexes) during sex. Because you don't act on your fantasies, relax and enjoy them, and stop flogging yourself.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

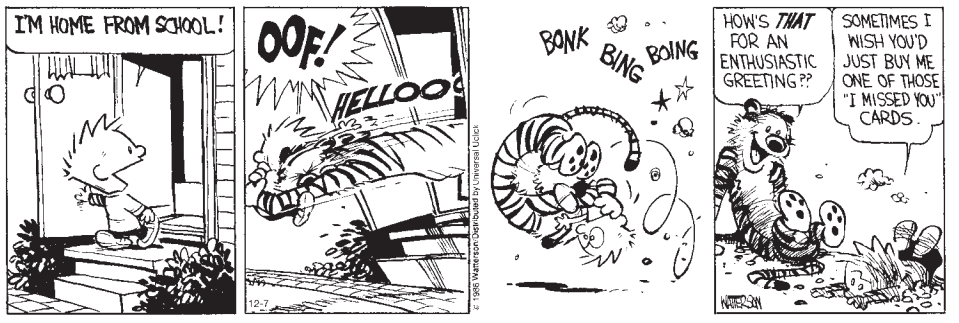
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'M HOME FROM SCHOOL!
OOF!
HELLOO
BONK BING BOING
HOW'S THAT FOR AN ENTHUSIASTIC GREETING??
SOMETIMES I WISH YOU'D JUST BUY ME ONE OF THOSE "I MISSED YOU" CARDS.

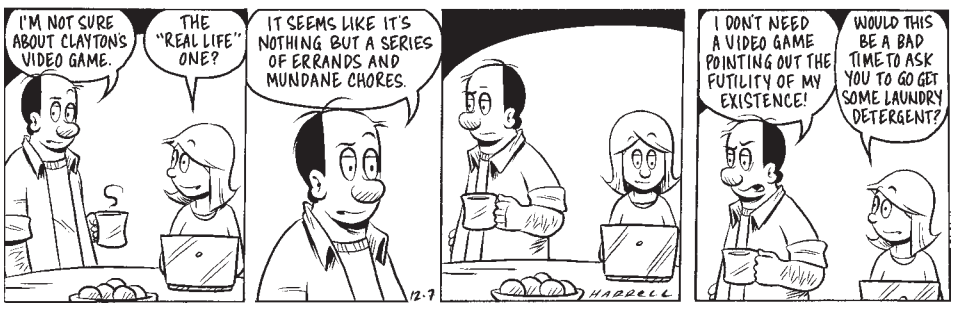
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

View your shopping cart
CLICK
JIM DAVIS 12-7
WHO PUT 200 BOXES OF MICROWAVE CORN DOGS IN HERE?!
HUH. THAT'S A REAL POSER, THAT ONE IS

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I'M NOT SURE ABOUT CLAYTON'S VIDEO GAME.
THE "REAL LIFE" ONE?
IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S NOTHING BUT A SERIES OF ERRANDS AND MUNDANE CHORES.
I DON'T NEED A VIDEO GAME POINTING OUT THE FUTILITY OF MY EXISTENCE!
WOULD THIS BE A BAD TIME TO ASK YOU TO GO GET SOME LAUNDRY DETERGENT?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Sprite
4 Gore and Green
7 Others (Lat.)
8 Bucking horse
10 "Peer Gynt" playwright
11 Update, as machinery
13 "Gran Torino" director
16 Storm center
17 Justice Samuel
18 Altar vow
19 Untamed
20 Recognized
21 Climb
23 Pretend
25 "Hey, sailor!"
26 Lady of Spain
27 That fellow
28 Knucklehead
30 Transcript no.
33 Kevin Costner film directed by 13-Across
36 TV detective Remington
37 Like college walls
38 Cads
39 Wine valley
40 Ga. neighbor
41 Golfer Ernie

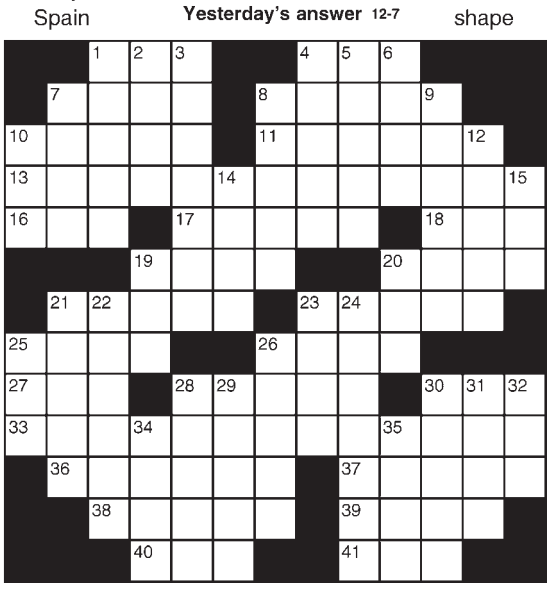
DOWN

1 Commercial cow
2 Property claim
3 Pigeon variety
4 "Give it —!"
5 Gambling game
6 Winter blanket
7 With skill
8 Make pigtails
9 Sounding like a dove
10 "Rocks"
12 Gray-green color
14 Vogue rival
15 Part of DJIA
19 Method
20 Sportage maker
21 Fleet members
22 "The Iceman —"
23 Yard fraction
24 Interlace
25 "Eureka!"
26 Cuts into cubes
28 "— Pretty"
29 Perry Mason's assistant
30 Clenches
31 Entreaty
32 Toss in
34 Coral formation
35 Cameo shape

Solution time: 24 mins.

T	R	A	P			A	C	T		D	E	F	Y	
H	O	B	O			L	I	E		E	T	R	E	
U	S	E	S			G	A	D	A	B	O	U	T	
G	A	L	I	L	E	O		F	U	N	G	I		
			N	P	R		Y	E	N					
Z	I	N	G	S			G	A	W	K	E	R	S	
A	N	O				G	A	P			R	E	O	
G	A	S	P	I	N	G		A	T	A	L	L		
			E	S	P		M	O	O					
A	D	A	G	E			G	A	L	O	O	T	S	
G	A	D	G	E	T	R	Y		B	R	I	E		
E	R	I	E			S	O	B		A	S	E	A	
S	E	N	D			A	W	E		D	O	R	M	

Yesterday's answer 12-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tino Martinez, 49; C. Thomas Howell, 50; Tom Waits, 67; Ellen Burstyn, 84.

Happy Birthday: Take your time and pick and choose what you want to do carefully. Don't think too big or set unreasonable goals. Take one step at a time and build a strong base to ensure your plans are secure. Problems with communication will surface if you don't trust in your own knowledge and judgment. Your numbers are 6, 9, 15, 21, 24, 37, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take pride in what you do and stay tuned in to what others expect. Keeping a balance between what you want to do and what you have to accomplish will help you reach your goals and gain satisfaction in the process. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take good care of your health, reputation and your assets. Let your intuition help you make the best decisions. A conservative approach to finances, business and how you are going to move forward will help you avoid setbacks. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Emotional interaction can go two ways. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of your kindness or generosity. Ask questions that are relevant to the situation before you offer physical assistance. Take care of your own personal and physical needs first. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Adjust things to meet your needs. Back up your findings and your desire to get ahead with innovative ideas and an open mind. You can get others to listen if you choose the right words. Moderation and diplomacy are encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Interact with people who challenge you and give your all. Your abundance of energy and desire to reach the finish line will prove that you are the right person to bring about positive and lasting change. Play to win. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): It will be difficult to know which way to turn or who to believe. Do your research and put your mind at ease before making a decision. Problems with children or seniors will surface. An alternative plan will be your best option. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Consider alternative ways to improve your health and to deal with matters concerning your colleagues. A problem with a pet or elderly family member is best dealt with quickly. Don't lose sight of what's truly important to you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't get angry; get busy. You can bring about positive changes to the way you live or how you get along with your co-workers if you make an effort to compromise. Self-improvement projects will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): It's up to you to stay on top of matters. Listen to what's being said and ask for a written commitment before you proceed. Emotional matters will surface due to a lack of information or understanding. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Let your imagination wander and it will lead to some interesting ideas. Keep a little in reserve when it comes to your energy levels. Too much of anything will be your downfall. Be patient and stay healthy. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Do your best to take care of responsibilities and finish what you start so that you can move on to bigger and better things. Take advantage of an opportunity that will improve your life. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Be careful how you deal with friends and relatives. Choose your words wisely and refuse to let anyone dump unwanted responsibilities on you. Respond with encouragement, not hands-on help. Do something creative to take your mind off of your worries. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, determined and ambitious. You are aggressive and worldly.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8	1	3	9	5	7	2	
	3						4	
						1		
					1			
		9	2	8	6	5		
			9					
		5						
	9						1	
	7	2	8	5	4	6	3	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	6	7	3	8	5	1	2	4
2	1	5	4	9	6	7	3	8
8	4	3	7	2	1	6	5	9
4	3	9	1	5	7	2	8	6
1	5	2	8	6	3	4	9	7
7	8	6	9	4	2	5	1	3
5	7	4	2	3	8	9	6	1
6	9	8	5	1	4	3	7	2
3	2	1	6	7	9	8	4	5

Difficulty Level ★★ 12/06

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THINGS THAT END IN "ES" Solution: 4 letters

A	I	S	I	D	E	S	E	U	C	E	B	R	A	B
L	D	E	E	S	E	V	L	E	H	S	M	A	U	I
T	L	D	C	I	T	I	E	S	I	E	I	G	K	O
I	E	R	I	H	R	F	C	S	M	Z	L	N	S	M
T	S	O	I	T	O	U	E	W	E	E	E	S	E	E
U	T	H	N	R	I	E	T	I	S	E	S	E	V	S
D	O	S	C	V	B	V	S	N	S	R	E	X	O	E
E	E	E	H	O	M	I	E	E	E	F	S	A	O	P
S	S	I	E	T	Z	A	T	S	V	C	S	T	H	I
S	E	N	Ⓢ	Ⓔ	Ⓘ	Ⓟ	P	E	A	E	E	O	O	P
E	L	O	S	S	E	N	I	L	S	S	R	T	A	S
M	U	C	H	A	R	I	T	I	E	S	I	E	X	E
I	R	L	A	N	E	S	O	E	E	S	W	S	E	T
L	E	A	V	E	S	N	R	S	E	B	U	T	S	I
F	A	B	L	E	S	T	U	N	E	S	E	S	O	R

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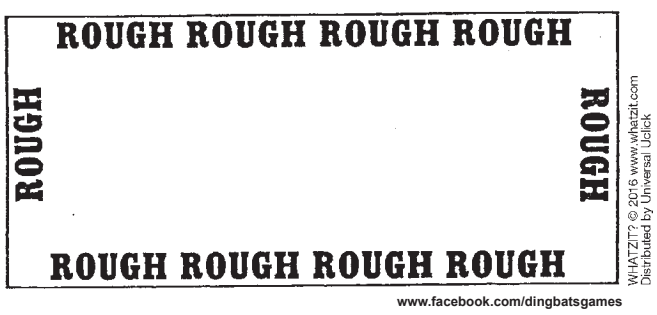

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Klay Thompson scores 60 for Warriors in rout of Pacers

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Klay Thompson had an NBA season-high and career-best 60 points for the highest-scoring performance by a Golden State player in more than 42 years, and the Warriors whipped the Indiana Pacers 142-106 on Monday night.

Thompson raised his arms to encourage more of those steady "KLAY! KLAY! KLAY!" chants then let it fly again and again. He had 60 through three and called it a night, sitting down with 1:22 left in the period as fans jumped to their feet for an extended standing ovation.

He scored 40 by halftime in just 18-plus minutes.

Thompson joined Hall of Famers Wilt Chamberlain, Rick Barry and Joe Fulks as the only Warriors to score 60 points. Barry was the last to do so, going off for 64 on March 26, 1974, against Portland.

Thompson shot 21 for 33 and 8 of 14 on 3-pointers—15 of 22 with five 3s in the first two quarters—and converted 10 of 11 free throws in 29 minutes. When he knocked down a baseline 3 midway through the second quarter right in front of a resting Curry on the bench, the shot sent the MVP into a tunnel-dashing frenzy of delight.

Previously this season the highest scorers were Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook with 51 in an overtime game and Anthony Davis with 50 in regulation for the Pelicans.

Kevin Durant added 20 points, eight rebounds, four assists and two blocks for Golden State in another display of impressive passing. The Warriors' 15 first-quarter assists matched a franchise record done twice previously and they wound up with 45 total—two off the franchise record they set Nov. 24 against the Lakers.

In one sensational third-quarter play worthy of the highlight reel, Thompson had no part: Off a jump ball, Draymond Green hit Curry with a long heave and Curry made a leaping, one-touch pass to Durant for the dazzling alley-oop. Curry had 13 points and 11 assists.

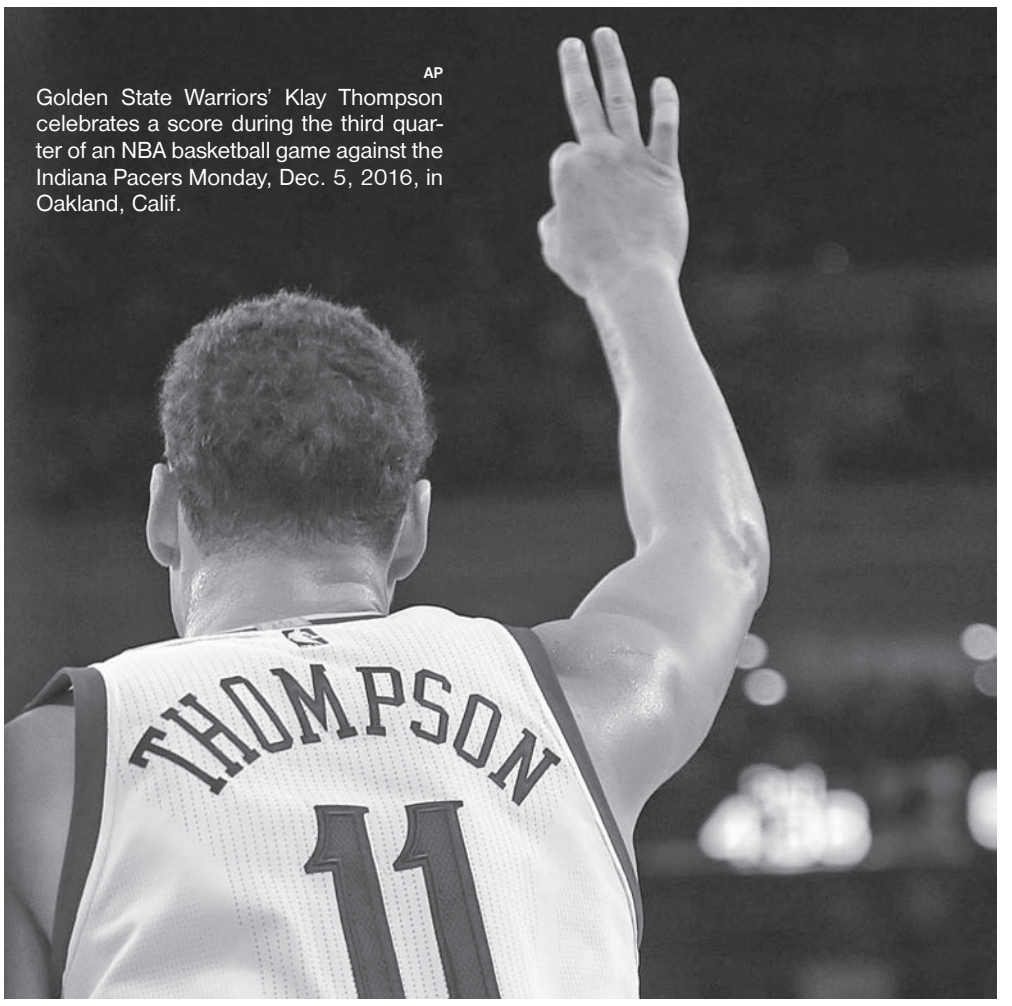
Thompson scored 17 points in just under 9 minutes to begin the game and Golden State had 15 assists on its initial 17 baskets and led 38-27 after the first.

Golden State beat the healthy Pacers this time. The Warriors won in Indiana 120-83 on the second night of a back-to-back for the Pacers on Nov. 21 when they were missing Paul George, Myles Turner and C.J. Miles.

This time the Pacers again played on consecutive nights but at full strength following a comeback win at the Clippers for just their second road victory.

George had 21 points and 10 rebounds a night after playing nearly 34 minutes and much of that with tissue in his bloody nose.

Monta Ellis, who spent the first 6 1/2 years of his career with Golden State, was held to nine against his former team and received a warm welcome when announced before the game.



AP

Golden State Warriors' Klay Thompson celebrates a score during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Indiana Pacers Monday, Dec. 5, 2016, in Oakland, Calif.

Thunder 102, Hawks 99

In Atlanta, Russell Westbrook extended his streak of triple-doubles to six games, leading Oklahoma City over skidding Atlanta.

Westbrook scored 32 points, grabbed 13 rebounds and dished out 12 assists, giving him the NBA's longest streak of triple-doubles since Michael Jordan had seven in a row in 1989.

Westbrook's run has sparked a six-game winning streak by the Thunder. He has reached double figures in all three categories in half of the Thunder's 22 games.

By contrast, Jordan had 15 triple-doubles for the entire 1988-89 season.

Despite a poor start shooting, Westbrook already had 15 points and 11 rebounds when he picked up his 10th assist with 6:20 left in the third quarter.

Atlanta rallied down the stretch, but Westbrook closed it out for the Thunder. He finished with 27 second-half points to send the Hawks to their seventh straight loss and 10th defeat in the last 11 games.

It's the longest losing streak for the Hawks since they dropped eight in a row in February 2014.

Cavaliers 116, Raptors 112

In Toronto, LeBron James scored 34 points and Cleveland overcame an injury to J.R. Smith to snap their three-game losing streak with a victory over Toronto.

Smith injured his left knee in the first quarter after landing on a jump shot and hobbled to the dressing room in considerable pain. He did not return, and the Cavaliers said X-rays taken at the arena were negative and that the guard would return to Cleveland on Tuesday for further examination.

DeMar DeRozan had 31 points and Kyle Lowry added 24 for Toronto, which had its six-game winning streak snapped.

The win was the Cavaliers' third straight this season against the Raptors, the team they beat in last season's Eastern Conference finals. It also prevented Toronto from leapfrogging Cleveland into first place in the conference.

Kevin Love had 28 points and 14 rebounds. Kyrie Irving added 24 points, his career-high 10th straight game with at least 20.

Rockets 107, Celtics 106

In Houston, James Harden scored 37 points and Al Horford missed a shot just before the buzzer, allowing Houston to hold off Boston.

The game was tied before Harden scored five straight points to make it 107-102 with less than a minute remaining. Avery Bradley made a jump shot and Harden received a flagrant 1 foul for elbowing Marcus Smart in the face. Smart made both free throws before Isaiah Thomas missed a layup.

But Houston knocked the ball out of bounds with 5.2 seconds left, giving Boston one last chance. Horford drove into the lane, but his shot rolled off the rim and Harden grabbed it to secure the victory.

Horford had 21 points and Thomas added 20 for the Celtics.

It was the ninth 30-point game this season for Harden, who also had eight assists and seven rebounds.

Spurs 97, Bucks 96

In Milwaukee, LaMarcus Aldridge was credited for the go-ahead basket with 21.2 seconds left after Giannis Antetokounmpo was whistled for goaltending, completing San Antonio's rally from 15 points down against Milwaukee.

The Bucks had one last shot to retake the lead, but Mirza Teletovic missed an open 3-pointer from the right corner with 3.9 seconds left. Aldridge secured the rebound and the Spurs ran out the clock.

San Antonio extended its season-opening road winning streak to 12 games.

Aldridge had 18 points. Kawhi Leonard finished with 22 points and nine boards.

Jabari Parker had 23 points, picking up the slack for much of the fourth quarter for the Bucks with Antetokounmpo on the bench with five fouls. Antetokounmpo finished with 22 points and 11 rebounds.

Trail Blazers 112, Bulls 110

In Chicago, Damian Lillard had 30 points and seven assists, CJ McCollum scored 24 and Portland beat Chicago for its third consecutive victory.

Allen Crabbe added 17 points for the Trail Blazers, who opened a five-game trip with their fourth win in five games. Maurice Harkless had 11 and Evan Turner finished with 10, providing a nice boost in the fourth quarter.

Dwyane Wade scored 34 points for the Bulls, and Jimmy Butler finished with 26 points, seven rebounds and five assists.

Chicago played without point guard Rajon Rondo, suspended one game for conduct detrimental to the team. There was no public indication from the Bulls on what triggered Rondo's suspension. He is expected to return Tuesday night in Detroit.

Grizzlies 110, Pelicans 108, 2OT

In New Orleans, Marc Gasol had 28 points, including a tying 3-pointer with 7 seconds left in regulation, to go with 11 rebounds and 11 assists, and Memphis outlasted New Orleans in double overtime.

Gasol blocked two shots, including one by Terrence Jones that could have given the Pelicans the lead in the final seconds of the first overtime. And the Spaniard's 17-foot jumper with 1:16 left in the second OT wound up being the winning basket.

Troy Daniels hit seven 3s and finished with 29 points for Memphis, including a tying 3 with 15 seconds left in the first overtime.

Anthony Davis had 28 points and 17 rebounds for New Orleans. Langston Galloway hit six 3s and scored a season-high 26 points, but missed a corner 3 that could have won it as the second extra period ended.

Tony Allen had 19 points, 14 rebounds and three steals for the Grizzlies, who have won three straight despite having a handful of regulars injured.

Hornets 109, Mavericks 101

In Dallas, Kemba Walker scored 19 points, Nicolas Batum had 14 points and 15 rebounds, and Charlotte came back to defeat Dallas.

The Hornets took advantage of a knee injury to Mavericks center Andrew Bogut late in the first quarter to dominate the paint and the boards in rallying from an 11-point, third-quarter deficit.

Marco Belinelli scored 12 of his 16 points in the second half, including the team's first two 3-pointers after the Hornets missed their first 14 from long range. Six Hornets scored in double figures.

Harrison Barnes scored 29 points for Dallas, and Deron Williams had his first double-double of the season with 15 points and 13 assists.

Jazz 107, Lakers 101

In Los Angeles, Gordon Hayward scored 23 points and Utah overcame the absence of ill coach Quin Snyder to beat Los Angeles for its sixth win in seven games.

Lou Williams had 38 points, six rebounds and seven assists for the Lakers, who rallied in the fourth quarter and nearly stole a victory despite finishing their eighth loss in 11 games without five injured regulars.

Rodney Hood scored 16 points and hit two difficult shots in the waning minutes to keep the Jazz on track to win their only road game in a nine-game stretch.

Veteran assistant Igor Kokoskov ran the Jazz for Snyder, who fell ill earlier in the day and decided he couldn't coach shortly before game time.

Utah's bus also got stuck in traffic and arrived late at Staples Center.

Two nights after scoring 40 points in Memphis, Williams put together the first back-to-back 30-point games of his 12-year NBA career.

Nuggets 106, 76ers 98

In Philadelphia, Danilo Gallinari scored 24 points and Will Barton had 22, including a big 3-pointer late, to lead Denver over Philadelphia.

Jamal Murray added 22 points for the Nuggets, who won for the second time in seven games.

Ersan Ilyasova, Sergio Rodriguez and Dario Saric all had 17 points for the 76ers, who culminated a four-game homestand with their seventh straight defeat.

Wizards 118, Nets 113

In New York, John Wall scored 25 points, including 11 in the fourth quarter, as Washington rallied to beat Brooklyn.

Bradley Beal and Otto Porter Jr. had 18 points apiece and Markieff Morris added 16 for the Wizards.

Brook Lopez scored 25 and Sean Kilpatrick had 21 for the Nets.

Beal's 3-pointer gave the Wizards a 107-106 lead with 3:27 left, and Wall scored five consecutive points to up the advantage to 112-106.

Brooklyn pulled to 116-113 with 39 seconds left and had a chance to tie. But then Beal stole the ball from Joe Harris, the Nets' 22nd and final turnover of the game.

The Wizards trailed by 16 in the first half and 66-51 at halftime before scoring the first 13 points of the third quarter.

Luck throws for 4 TDs, Colts rout Jets 41-10

AP

New York Jets strong safety Rontez Miles (45) makes a hit on Indianapolis Colts tight end Dwayne Allen (83) during the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Dec. 5, 2016, in East Rutherford, N.J.

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Boys just want to have fun.

Andrew Luck certainly didn't have any when he sat out a Thanksgiving night loss with a concussion. He made up for it very nicely Monday night in a 41-10 romp past the inept New York Jets.

"To get back out there and do some decent things, that's fun," Luck said after throwing for four touchdowns, three to Dwayne Allen. "Sitting out is no fun."

Not that Luck had to work very hard against the hosts, who were booed by a much-less-than-filled MetLife Stadium almost from the outset.

Luck missed last week's loss to Pittsburgh, cleared the NFL's concussion protocol on the weekend, and came back in style with a prime-time performance. He lifted Indianapolis (6-6) into a tie for the lead in the AFC South with Tennessee and Houston.

"The quarterback was outstanding," coach Chuck Pagano said. "It's always great to have your starting quarterback under center."

Allen and T.Y. Hilton were his main targets as he went 22 of 28 for 278 yards, and they received little opposition from the Jets (3-9).

"It was a great night for everyone," Allen said. "You hope that every night you go to play, it's a night like that. It's not realistic in the National Football League."

This one couldn't have come easier for Indianapolis. The Colts toyed with the lifeless Jets from the beginning, when New York's Jeremy Ross got to only his 11-yard line with the opening kickoff return. A three-and-out gave Luck the ball, and seven plays later, he hit a wide-open Allen for a 7-0 edge.

Indy needed only four plays on its next series, with Allen even more open for a 21-yard reception to make it 14-0. At that juncture, the Colts had gained 120 yards, the Jets 6.

"I can't put my finger on it, but it has made a big difference," Luck said of getting out quickly. "To be up 7-0 (immediately) means a lot."

Those yardage figures wound up 421 to 250. Indy scored its most points since Week 13 of 2014; the Jets allowed their most since Week 8 of that season.

The Jets (3-9) finally found some spark after Pat McAfee's punt was downed at their 3. Matt Forte turned a short pass into a 40-yard gain with a nasty move on Rashaan Melvin, but that drive stalled and Nick Folk made a 38-yard field goal.

That temporarily quieted the boobirds in the stadium. But Luck hit Hilton for 23 yards on Indy's next play, Gore ran for 19 and Adam Vinatieri kicked a 53-yard field goal to make it 17-3.

And when Allen set a career best with this third TD reception on a perfect 23-yard throw from Luck, the rout was on.

"It's never easy and you can't ever take your foot off the gas and relax and say, 'We got this,'" Pagano said.

Donte Moncrief added a 3-yard touchdown, the sixth straight game he has caught one. Hilton continually victimized cornerback Darrelle Revis and other Jets DBs, making nine catches for 146 yards. Hilton went over 1,000 yards for the fourth time in his five pro seasons.

New York has lost four in a row and is 1-5 at home. Its performance Monday night can't be of any help to coach Todd Bowles, who led the Jets to a 10-6 mark a year ago in his first season in charge.

"I thought for the first time this year, we got our (butt) handed to us," Bowles said.

MISSED OPPORTUNITY

The Colts barely missed being up 31-3 at the half. Jack Doyle lost the ball while reaching for the pylon late in the second quarter, resulting in a touchback.

WHO'S THE QB?

Bowles replaced Ryan Fitzpatrick (5 for 12, 81 yards, one interception) with Bryce Petty to start the second half. Didn't matter at all as Petty went 11 for 25 for 135 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions. He will start the final four games, the coach said.

VP IN THE HOUSE

Vice President-elect Mike Pence was a guest of Jets owner Woody Johnson. He didn't see much of a game.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Jets held a moment of silence before the game to honor former running back Joe McKnight, killed last Thursday in Louisiana. Authorities said McKnight, 28, was shot during a road rage incident.

McKnight had a 107-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in 2011, and it stands as the longest play in Jets history.

INJURIES

Colts: LB D'Qwell Jackson left in the fourth quarter with a concussion. RG Denzelle Good also sustained a concussion.

Jets LB Julian Stanford hurt his ankle in the third quarter and S Antonio Allen sustained a concussion in the final period. C Nick Mangold returned from a four-game hiatus because of a sprained ankle, but aggravated it.

Rivera not worried about losing team after benching Newton

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Panthers coach Ron Rivera is not worried about losing the faith of his players in the locker room after his decision to bench Cam Newton for the start of Sunday night's game against the Seattle Seahawks.

Rivera said Monday in hindsight he's "very comfortable" with his decision to keep the reigning league MVP on the sideline after he failed to wear a tie on the team flight Saturday, as required by team rules.

Derek Anderson replaced Newton in the starting lineup and threw an interception on Carolina's first play from scrimmage. Newton entered the game on the second series, but things continued to spiral downhill and the injury-riddled and struggling Panthers (4-8) lost 40-7.

Rivera said there was no underlying message to Newton because he has enforced similar dress code violations in the past.

"It's not the first time and it probably won't be the last time," Rivera said. "At the end of the day everybody gets treated the same."

Rivera made the decision to bench Newton on Saturday night when he was unable to come up with a shirt and tie for the team flight to Seattle.

The sixth-year coach was well aware his decision would get a lot of media attention - and generate some criticism—because of his quarterback's high profile, but felt like he had to enforce the team's long-standing rule.

"I knew it was going to be a feeding frenzy—that's just the way it is," Rivera said. "I've addressed it and (Cam) has addressed it. So I'm done with it."

Carolina players were off on Monday following an early morning flight back from the West coast and were not available for interviews. A huge Carolina fan, Golden State Warriors star Stephen Curry called it a "weird situation" but still has all the confidence in his team.

Players for the most part steered clear of addressing Rivera's decision after the game.

Newton took accountability for the mistake after the game, telling reporters, "Long story short, he has rules in place. In my opinion, it was a lack of communication on my part, especially as a team captain, a person that I feel has his ear. I should have just cleared it first."

Rivera said the team has five core values set by owner Jerry Richardson - hard work, harmony, teamwork, listen and respect.

"You can be who you are and keep your personality, but you have to try to keep them within the parameters," Rivera said.

Carolina, which hosts the Chargers on Sunday, can finish no better than 8-8 this season, meaning its streak of never having put back-to-back winning seasons together since entering the league in 1995 will continue.

Tight end Greg Olsen said Sunday night that this season has been filled with "humbling experiences" after a year in which the Panthers bolted to a 14-0 start and reached the Super Bowl before losing to the Denver Broncos.

"We just aren't very good right now, that's just the reality," Olsen said. "That's all anyone should care about. Just win one time, one game. Prepare that way, play that way, play smart, execute, and win one game."

The Panthers have been ravaged by injuries.

Against Seattle they played without middle linebacker Luke Kuechly, defensive end Mario Addison and safety Kurt Coleman on defense and center Ryan Kalil and left tackle Michael Oher on offense. Kalil and Oher are both on injured reserve and the Panthers are down to the fourth center.

"We all had grand expectations," Rivera said of the season. "Shoot, I really wanted to get back to the Super Bowl and win it. I'm not going to back off that. We still had opportunities but we just didn't capitalize."

Still, Rivera said the remaining games will be important in terms of evaluating for the future.

"This is a good opportunity to see who we are, see what our character is and see what we can build on," Rivera said.

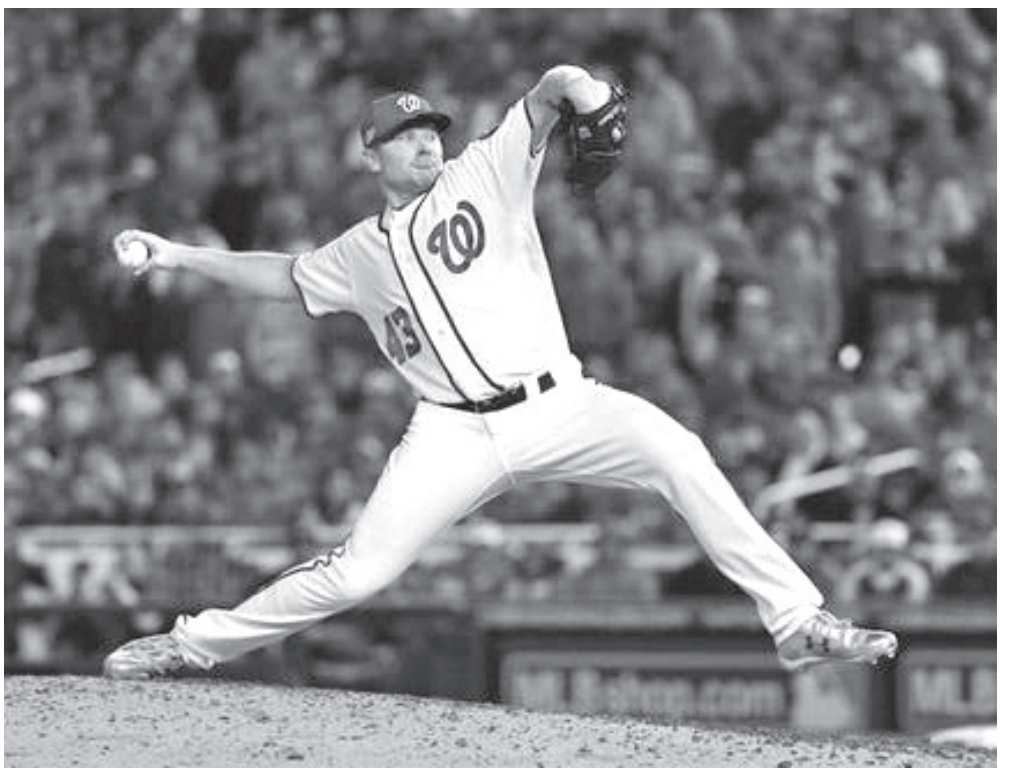
Melancon, Giants reach $62M, 4-year deal pending physical

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The San Francisco Giants landed the top-tier closer they have been seeking for months, agreeing to a $62 million, four-year contract with right-hander Mark Melancon on Monday.

It's the richest contract ever for a closer, topping Jonathan Papelbon's $50 million, four-year deal with the Phillies from 2012-15 and Mariano Rivera's $15 million annual value total in 2011-12 by the Yankees.

"Really excited to have Mark," manager Bruce Bochy said in a text message. "Got to know him on a trip to Taiwan in 2011. Fills an important need for us. Great to get one of the premier closers in the game."

Pending a physical, the pitcher receives a $20 million signing bonus, $8 million of which is deferred, then salaries of $4 million for 2017, $10 million in '18 and $14 million in each of the '19 and 2020 seasons. He has a full no-trade clause and the chance to opt out after the first two years.



AP
In a Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016 file photo, Washington Nationals relief pitcher Mark Melancon throws to a Los Angeles Dodgers batter during the eighth inning of Game 5 of a baseball National League Division Series, at Nationals Park, in Washington.

Melancon has saved at least 30 games in each of the past three seasons, recording a majors-best 51 in 2015. He went 47 for 51 in save opportunities in 75 relief appearances last season with Pittsburgh and Washington, tied for second-most saves in baseball with Baltimore's Zach Britton and Kenley Jansen of the Dodgers behind the Mets' Jeurys Familia with 51.

After San Francisco tried to acquire Aroldis Chapman at the trade deadline and missed out to the Cubs, finding a reliable ninth-inning option became top of the to-do list for the offseason. Melancon was dealt to the Nationals from the Pirates.

"Adding a premier closer was our main priority this offseason," general manager Bobby Evans said. "Mark solidifies the back end of our bullpen and fills a critical role. He brings talent, leadership and experience to our pitching staff."

Because the 31-year-old Melancon was traded during the season, the Giants don't have to give up their first pick in June's amateur draft as compensation.

The Giants blew 32 saves this past season, nine in September - one fewer than Melancon had over the past three years—and the last in a 6-5 Game 4 loss to the Cubs that ended San Francisco's season. Chicago scored four runs in the ninth as Bochy tried five relievers in the inning.

Santiago Casilla and Sergio Romo, two reliable relievers in even-year championships of 2010, '12 and '14, were both inconsistent.

Last offseason, the Giants made a splash by adding to their starting rotation, signing Johnny Cueto to a $130 million, six-year contract and Jeff Samardzija for $90 million over five years.

Gwynn's death helped change MLB culture on smokeless tobacco

OXON HILL, Md. (AP)—Tony Gwynn's death from oral cancer was a turning point in baseball's culture that long tolerated smokeless tobacco.

Baseball's new labor contract, agreed to last week, bans chew among players with no current major league service time. The Hall of Famer's death at age 54 two years ago shook up many in the industry.

"What happened to Tony Gwynn, you don't want that to happen again," Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. said Monday at the winter meetings.

Gwynn, a longtime San Diego star, and Ripken, who spent his entire career with Baltimore, were close friends and were inducted into the Hall together in 2007 after their first-ballot elections.

"A lot of people, probably including myself, stood back and said, well, life is what it is. It's not illegal. People make choices all the time," Ripken said. "But once you see what can happen and how fast it can happen, I think it does make you think about it differently."

Several cities have banned smokeless tobacco in big league ballparks, and the new labor agreement allows players to be fined for violations. Current big leaguers are grandfathered against the change.

"It's about time. I've never chewed, never dipped or anything like," Atlanta All-Star first baseman Freddie Freeman said. "A lot of kids look up to us. If they were to see us on TV with a big chew, dip in our mouths, they could go do that."

For the last five seasons, big league players were prohibited from carrying tobacco products, including tins and packages, onto the field when fans were in the ballpark.

"To the extent that the world has changed, we respectfully had the conversations that we did in acknowledgment of those changes whole also appreciating that ... a lot of players are making the decisions on their own to quit," union head Tony Clark said.

NEW

From Page 28

against the former's teammate last year Clayton Izuka and newcomer Chris Aninzo after posting a 6-0, 6-1 victory in the finals.

Park, who won the same division last year, and Hudkins marched into the finals after stunning the top-ranked pair of Randy and Richard Steele in the semis, 6-3, 7-6 (3). Park and Hudkins, who joined the same competition in 2015 with Haruya Eda and finished third, earlier eliminated Rintaro Miyawaki and Go Sekiguchi, 6-1, 6-1, to move into the Final Four.

Izuka and Aninzo, on the other hand, went through the eye of the needle to make it to the championship game. They slipped past Michael Jones and Sun Joon Tenorio in the quarterfinals, 6-0, 6-7 (8), 10-7, and then edged No. 2 seeds Allan Lee and Sam Ryu in the semis, 4-6, 6-2, 10-8.

Meanwhile, another new partnership—Vickie Izuka and Chiharu Sato—triumphed in the women's 3.0 doubles. The duo topped the division after getting a perfect record in two games. Their first win came against the tandem of Maaya Sato and Rei Sekiguchi last Friday at the Kanoa Resort court, 6-3, 6-1. For their second victory, Sato and Izuka played at the Hyatt court last Saturday and also swept Guinevere Borja and Gillian Villagomez, 6-2, 6-1.

Villagomez and Borja settled for the runner-up honors as they pulled off a 7-2, 2-6, 11-9 victory over Maaya Sato and Sekiguchi last Sunday.

PATRIOTS

From Page 28

In the Patriots-Chinese Association tiff, the former reached the century mark as they had five players breaking into double figures.

The Patriots knocked in shots from all corners and drilled 10 triples against only one from the winless Chinese Association.

Mike Espinosa made four of those baskets from beyond the arc, including three successive triples in the fourth quarter. He registered 18 points to match the output of Jack Aranda, who also made three shots from downtown.

Jaymark De Guzman was the third Patriots player to score 18 points in their lopsided win, while Jester Kintaro and Sean Rabasto posted 14 and 12, respectively.

Mii Tekopua paced the Chinese Association with his game-high 30 points, while Zhu Chen added 26.

Meanwhile, the league, which has been on and off for the last two months due to the lighting problems at the San Antonio court, scheduled two other matches last Sunday. The Junior Ol'Aces got a free win after a no-show from MGNEL Construction, while Saipan Apparel prevailed against Ace Hardware, 73-60.

Saipan Apparel led right from the get-go to hand the league-leading Ace Hardware its second loss in nine games. Saipan Apparel earned its fifth victory in eight games.

The trio of Ben Lisua, Kelvin Fitial, and Justin Andrew teamed up in Ace Hardware's 13-point winning margin. Lisua fired 24 points, anchoring the team's offense early in the first half, while Andrew and Fitial finished with 17 and 15 markers, respectively.

In related news, MIBF has scheduled make-up games on Dec. 10 and 11 to complete the regular season matches. After the round-robin elimination games, only the Top 8 teams out of the 11 squad will be able to compete in the playoffs, which will start on Jan. 9.

CNMI

From Page 28

and she will battle only three swimmers—Palau's Osisang Chilton, Maldives' Aishath Sausan, and Swaziland's Robyn Young. The CNMI swimmer's entry time in the 100m backstroke is 1.24.14.

In the 200m freestyle, De Jesus' time is 2.26.15 and she will race in on Heat 1 against Chilton anew. Other entries in the event are the Marshall Islands' Ruthie Long, Maldives' Aminath Shajan, Great Britain's Georgia Coates, and Tonga's Charissa Panuve.

For her last event—the 50m breaststroke—De Jesus is on Heat 2 and will be up against nine other swimmers. The list includes Uganda's Anthea Mudanye, Comoros' Mohamed Nazlati, Nepal's Niharika Tuladhar, Curacao's Tiareth Cijntje, Honduras' Cecilia Medina, Albania's Kejsi Delli, Marshall Islands' Coleen Furgeson and Annie Hepller, and Malawi's Chang'Anamuni.

De Jesus and company are among the nearly 1,000 swimmers from 208 members of the Fédération Internationale De Natation (FINA) competing in the short course tournament.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	14	7	.667	—
Boston	12	9	.571	2
New York	11	9	.550	2½
Brooklyn	5	15	.250	8½
Philadelphia	4	17	.190	10

Southeast Division

Charlotte	12	9	.571	—
Atlanta	10	12	.455	2½
Orlando	9	12	.429	3
Washington	7	12	.368	4
Miami	7	13	.350	4½

Central Division

Cleveland	14	5	.737	—
Chicago	11	9	.550	3½
Milwaukee	10	9	.526	4
Detroit	11	11	.500	4½
Indiana	10	11	.476	5

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	17	4	.810	—
Houston	14	7	.667	3
Memphis	14	8	.636	3½
New Orleans	7	15	.318	10½
Dallas	4	16	.200	12½

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	14	8	.636	—
Utah	13	9	.591	1
Portland	12	10	.545	2
Denver	8	13	.381	5½
Minnesota	6	14	.300	7

Pacific Division

Golden State	18	3	.857	—
L.A. Clippers	16	6	.727	2½
L.A. Lakers	10	13	.435	9
Sacramento	7	13	.350	10½
Phoenix	6	14	.300	11½

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	2	0	.833	319	207
Miami	7	5	0	.583	255	278
Buffalo	6	6	0	.500	305	274
N.Y. Jets	3	9	0	.250	206	307

South

Houston	6	6	0	.500	207	257
Indianapolis	6	6	0	.500	311	311
Tennessee	6	6	0	.500	308	296
Jacksonville	2	10	0	.167	224	313

North

Baltimore	7	5	0	.583	256	207
Pittsburgh	7	5	0	.583	290	236
Cincinnati	4	7	1	.375	245	259
Cleveland	0	12	0	.000	197	352

West

Oakland	10	2	0	.833	345	299
Kansas City	9	3	0	.750	281	242
Denver	8	4	0	.667	286	229
San Diego	5	7	0	.417	334	319

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

x-Dallas	11	1	0	.917	333	228
N.Y. Giants	8	4	0	.667	245	237
Washington	6	5	1	.542	303	295
Philadelphia	5	7	0	.417	268	245

South

Atlanta	7	5	0	.583	386	331
Tampa Bay	7	5	0	.583	277	285
New Orleans	5	7	0	.417	347	335
Carolina	4	8	0	.333	283	321

North

Detroit	8	4	0	.667	275	251
Green Bay	6	6	0	.500	295	302
Minnesota	6	6	0	.500	233	209
Chicago	3	9	0	.250	204	270

West

Seattle	8	3	1	.708	264	194
Arizona	5	6	1	.458	276	251
Los Angeles	4	8	0	.333	180	262
San Francisco	1	11	0	.083	234	370

x-clinched playoff spot

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

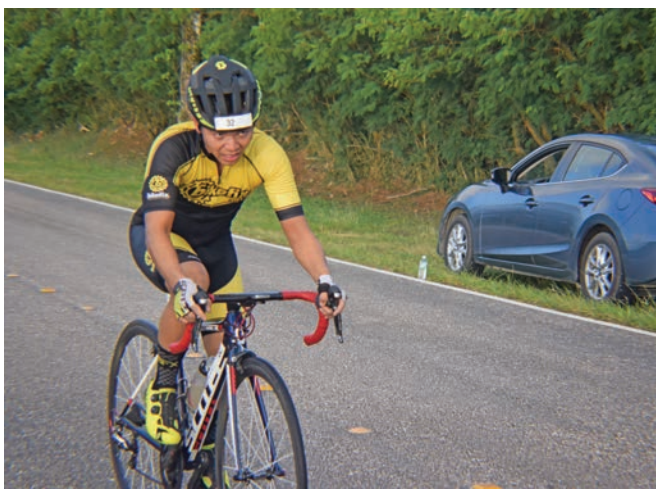
2016 Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Defending champion Ryutaro Nakamura of Japan pedals his way in front of the lead pack as they make the climb toward Suicide Cliff in last Saturday's 10th Hell of the Marianas race.

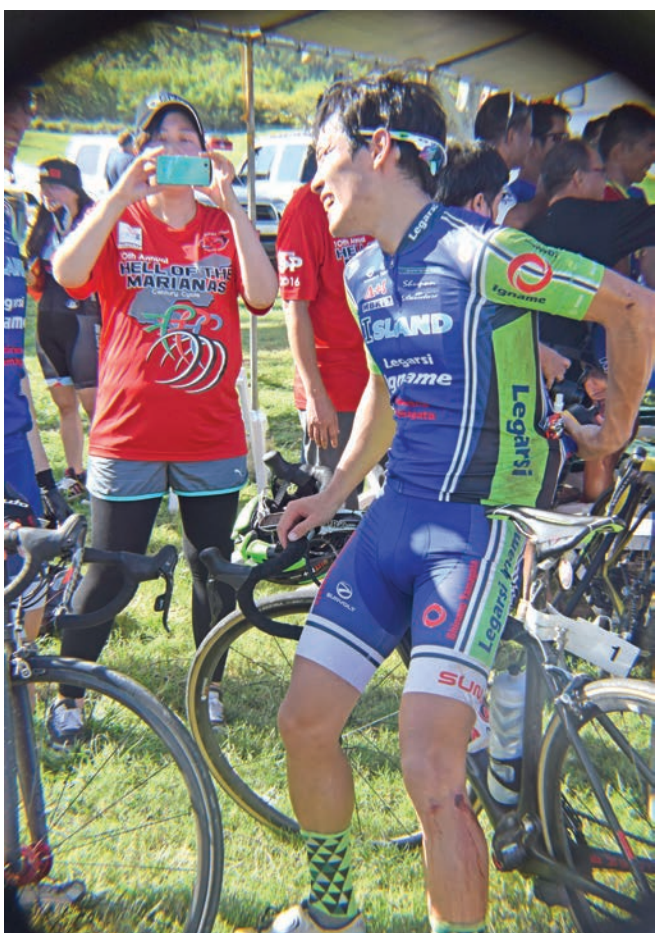
Tyce Mister, back, chases another rider.

Mark Lexer Galedo looks behind him to see Makoto Morimoto and Alexandr Dorovskikh chasing him.



A Guam biker makes his way up to the hilly terrains of Suicide Cliff.

Ryutaro Nakamura, left, cools off as he pedals along with Mark Lexer Galedo of the Philippines.



Last year's champion Ryutaro Nakamura of Japan suffered some scrapes and bruises after colliding with the Philippines' Jan Paul Morales early in the race.

Two-time Olympian Jazy Fernandez Garcia of the Philippines, left, shouts some instructions to Jan Paul Morales.

Japan's Ryutaro Nakamura makes his turn at Banzai Cliff.

Steve Nutting heads toward the second grueling climb of the race.

Makoto Morimoto of Japan rides in front of Russian cyclist Alexandr Dorovskikh.

Klay Thompson scores 60 for Warriors in rout of Pacers

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Luck throws for 4 TDs, Colts rout Jets 41-10

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New doubles partners triumph

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Moris Villanueva goes for a backhand return during his and Bobby Cruz's men's open doubles game against Michael Ren and Ken Song in the 8th TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Former CNMI National Team member Bobby Cruz and Moris Villanueva were victorious in their first team up as they took the men's open doubles title in the 8th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic.

Cruz and Villanueva were undefeated in the round-robin competition to clinch the division championship. The winning duo first coasted past Michael Ren and Ken Song in an early Sunday afternoon match at the Hyatt Regency Saipan court, 6-1, 6-1. Cruz and Villanueva then went to the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan court just a few hours after their victory to meet Donn Dunlop and Peter Loken, who came from a hard-earned 1-6, 6-2, 10-7 triumph over Ren and Song last Saturday. The new partners went on to prevail in their second and last match after registering a 4-1, 4-2 victory in their shortened game against Dunlop and Loken.

The win was a sort of revenge for Villanueva, who in 2014 lost to Loken and Luke Beling in the finals of the same division. Villanueva joined forces with fellow junior player Tommy Choi in their runner-up finish in the men's open doubles two years ago.

In other results of the second and final week of the Tan Holdings Tennis Classic, Alex Park had a new partner in A.J. Hudkins and they gained the men's 3.0 double crown

See NEW on Page 26

Patriots, Ol'Aces ease past opponents

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The San Antonio Patriots' Sean Rabasto pulls up for a jumper against two Talaabwogh Stars defenders during an earlier game in the MIBF outdoor caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The San Antonio Patriots and Ol'Aces cruised to victories at the resumption of games in the Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Inaugural Men's Outdoor League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

After a long break, San Antonio showed little signs of rust in whipping Chinese Association, 100-64, while the Ol'Aces also eased past the Talaabwogh Stars, 73-59.

Jack Lizama used his height advantage against the much younger and smaller players of Talaabwogh to hit baskets in streaks and finish with a game-high 28 points. He drilled 10 straight points early in the fourth quarter to keep the Ol'Aces' wide distance.

Dan Barcinas and Jeff Deleon Guerrero were also on target in their game against the Tanapag Stars, as both scored in twin digits. Barcinas had 12 markers, with nine of them coming from the 3-point area, while Deleon Guerrero contributed 11.

Joseph Lifoifoi led Talaabwogh's losing cause with his 15 points, while Henry Aguon chipped in 12.

See PATRIOTS on Page 26

CNMI swimmers begin world champs bid

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three CNMI swimmers will plunge into the pool today as they debut in the 13th FINA World Swimming Championships in Windsor, Canada.

Angel De Jesus, Christian Villacrusis, and Salofi Welch, who left Saipan last weekend along with head coach Jacoby Winkfield to represent the Commonwealth in the six-day short course tournament (25-meter), will be racing in the qualifying heats of five events. De Jesus will join the 50m breaststroke, 200m freestyle, and 100m backstroke on Day 1 of the competition, while Villacrusis and Welch will both participate in the 200m individual medley and 100m breaststroke races at the Windsor Family Credit Union Centre in Ontario.

In the 100m breaststroke, the CNMI's two male swimmers are on Heat 1, joining eight other participants. Villacrusis and Welch, whose seed times in the event read at 1.17.76 and 1.23.29, respectively, will go up against Brunei's Muis Ahmad, Malawi's Michael Swift, Niger's Alassane Seydoulancina, Nepal's Shuvam Shrestha, Honduras' Josue Portillo, Tanzania's Adil Bharmal, Gambia's Jegan Jobe, and Slovenia's Peter Stevens. There are 10 heats in the 100m breaststroke and only the Top 2 in each pool will advance to the next round.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, CNMI coach Jacoby Winkfield, Christian Villacrusis, Angel De Jesus, and Salofi Welch pose for a photo at the departure area of the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport last weekend before they leave for Canada to compete in the 13th FINA World Swimming Championships.

In the 200m IM, swimmers are spread in seven heats with the two CNMI bets again on the same group (Heat 1). Welch's entry time in the eight-lap race is 2.38.59, while Villacrusis' is listed at 2.34.70. They will be swimming against Great Britain's Mark Szaranek, Swaziland's Mark Hoare, Honduras' Carlos Vasquez, Papua New Guinea's Standford Kawale, Austria's Jakub Maly, and Vietnam's Duy Khoi Tran.

De Jesus is also on Heat 1 of the women's 100m backstroke

See CNMI on Page 26